

EXHIBIT B2

WRITTEN PUBLIC COMMENTS RECEIVED THROUGH THE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION ONLINE RULE DOCKET⁸

PUBLIC COMMENTS COMMISSION RULE DOCKET

FW: Biennial Rule Package
LSA Document #14-453
Admin. Cause No. 14-095D

<p>Commenter Name Steve Reid Sr City Argos County MARSHALL State Indiana E-Mail Address hewhohunts@embarqmail.com Comments Some very excellent regulation proposals here. The use of centerfire rifles for deer is a good one and long overdue in my opinion. My thanks to those who initially brought it to the table. It's my hope and my belief this will pass and no undue safety hazards will be created because of their use. God Bless Comment Received 11/12/2014 8:46:16 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Tim Owens City Covington County FOUNTAIN State In E-Mail Address tim.owens@sbcglobal.net Comments I think it's a great idea to allow rifles for deer hunting . Rifles are no different from the magnum muzzle loaders that we use Comment Received 11/12/2014 8:57:25 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Alexander Lowe City Independence County Out of State State Kentucky E-Mail Address arlowe13@gmail.com Comments I do not currently live in Indiana, but I do mainly hunt and fish in Indiana, having grown up there. The proposed rules seem to adequately simplify and clarify some of the confusing existing laws. Allowing most high-powered rifle calibers will not be a safety issue, in my opinion. I believe it will create more opportunity for hunters to harvest deer. Comment Received 11/12/2014 9:01:18 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name justin meyers City crawfordsville County MONTGOMERY State Indiana E-Mail Address justinlmeyers@gmail.com Comments I fully support the use of high power rifles for deer hunting in Indiana. Where I hunt in Indiana, I could safely and ethically use one to harvest deer and feel it would allow me to have more deer in Indiana. I also support an otter trapping season, there is a large population of them near me and they need to be managed and some trapped to maintain the resource. Comment Received 11/12/2014 9:02:39 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Andrew Snider City Westfield County HAMILTON State Indiana E-Mail Address arsnider2012@gmail.com Comments I am against the rifle law. I really think we need to go back to just slug guns and muzzleloaders. I feel like if we open up the rifle law too much we are going to run into more problems. Indiana should be a short range weapon state. Also, I am for the regulations for catfish on rivers! We need to at all costs do our best to stop commercial fishing from</p>

⁸ One hundred thirteen comments have been omitted from the official report because the individual offering the comment failed to provide identification information as required by Information Bulletin #55 (Second Amendment), "Citizen Comments to Hearing Officers", August 1, 2010, <http://www.in.gov/legislative/iac/20100804-IR-312100484NRA.xml.pdf>. These comments have been maintained as public records in this rule adoption matter but have not been considered for purposes of this report.

depleting our natural resources. Especially the big catfish that take so long to get big.

Comment Received 11/12/2014 9:07:08 PM

Commenter Name Joe Kelly

City Seymour **County** JACKSON **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address joekellybpd@gmail.com

Comments This is a good rule change. Keep this going in the right direction. The change made to the case length is a great idea. Thank you.

Comment Received 11/12/2014 9:07:24 PM

Commenter Name David A. Hicks

City Springville **County** LAWRENCE **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address selectfirem4@yahoo.com

Comments I fully SUPPORT the proposal to legalize rifles .243" and larger for deer hunting in Indiana. Indiana has already "tested the waters" with certain rifles for deer, and no negatives have been encountered, so I feel that there's no reason not to go with full inclusion. Thanks.

Comment Received 11/12/2014 9:08:43 PM

Commenter Name D. Slate

City Bedford **County** LAWRENCE **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address slate45@att.net

Comments I support the proposal to legalize rifles .243" and larger for deer hunting

Comment Received 11/12/2014 9:10:27 PM

Commenter Name Dillon Cornett

City Shoals **County** MARTIN **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address dillon_rh@yahoo.com

Comments I believe hunting deer with a .243 caliber or larger will be a good thing, and sell more licenses for the state of Indiana. As an educated hunter, I believe it will improve the sport we all hold so dear.

Comment Received 11/12/2014 9:13:19 PM

Commenter Name Ryan Birkemeier

City Reelsville **County** PUTNAM **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address rbirkemeier@gmail.com

Comments I am for the use of rifles in Indiana. My concern is I believe we should have a max cartridge length too. I think 30-06 is fine but don't know if some one needs to be shooting deer with a 50. cal rifle. I love the min Cal. being .243.

Thanks

Comment Received 11/12/2014 9:15:29 PM

Commenter Name John Hickman

City Bedford **County** LAWRENCE **State** IN

E-Mail Address jt.hickman@live.com

Comments I support the proposal to legalize rifles .243 and larger for deer

Comment Received 11/12/2014 9:20:25 PM

Commenter Name Tommy Joe Miller

City Bedford **County** LAWRENCE **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address millertommy223@gmail.com

Comments I am all for the use of 243 cal or larger hi powered rifles for deer hunting. We should have done it a long time ago.

Comment Received 11/12/2014 9:22:11 PM

Commenter Name Jon W Fuhrman

City Decatur **County** ADAMS **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address jonwfuhrman@gmail.com

Comments I support the legalization of .243 and larger rifles for firearms whitetail deer season in Indiana

Comment Received 11/12/2014 9:25:21 PM

Commenter Name Ryan Gick

City Fort Wayne **County** ALLEN **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address subzero350@frontier.com

Comments I would like to state that I am IN FAVOR of the proposed rule changes to drop the maximum case length restriction and decrease the minimum bullet caliber to .243 for legal deer hunting rifle cartridges in the state of Indiana (thus making rifles that fire .243, .270, 30-06, 30-30, .300 WIN MAG, etc. ammunition LEGAL for hunting deer). It is my understanding that such equipment is already legal to use to hunt other game like Coyote within the state of Indiana.

I also do not believe there should be any restrictions put onto what locations within the state that this equipment can be used in EXCEPT for what restrictions currently exist (ie: municipalities that restrict the use of firearms within town or city limits,

etc).

Comment Received 11/12/2014 9:27:13 PM

Commenter Name Glenn Carter

City New Albany **County** FLOYD **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address mammyun@insightbb.com

Comments I support the use of .243 and larger for whitetail deer in Indiana

Comment Received 11/12/2014 9:27:52 PM

Commenter Name William Yeager

City North Vernon **County** JENNINGS **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address weyyeager@yahoo.com

Comments All center fire rifles should be legal in Indiana.

Comment Received 11/12/2014 9:28:31 PM

Commenter Name Scott Arthur

City Rosedale **County** PARKE **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address snparthur60@aol.com

Comments Just read through LSA # 14-453 & I believe this is the most "common sense" set of proposed changes I have ever seen!! Agree with ALL of the proposed changes! Good work.

Scott Arthur

Rosedale, IN

Comment Received 11/12/2014 9:34:18 PM

Commenter Name Matt Norris

City prairie creek **County** VIGO **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address goodtimeshooter82@gmail.com

Comments I see no reason not to adopt the centerfire rifle proposal for deer season. Other states with similar topography and population densities have done so with no ill consequences.. The naysayers are the same ones who screamed about crossbows and PCRs. As we have seen, their doomsday scenarios for those changes were unfounded and it will prove the same for this. Let us hunt with or weapon of choice. It will be great for kids to be able to hunt with lite recoil .243 rounds.... I could see some restrictions being placed on public properties.

Comment Received 11/12/2014 9:35:19 PM

Commenter Name John Benjamin Lewis

City Brownstown **County** JACKSON **State** IN

E-Mail Address benatthetube@gmail.com

Comments I support the legalization of caliber .243" and larger centerfire rifle cartridges in a rifle platform for deer hunting in the State of Indiana.

Comment Received 11/12/2014 9:43:15 PM

Commenter Name Paul Lucas

City Sellersburg **County** CLARK **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address pslucas@gmail.com

Comments I am highly supportive of a change allowing modern centerfire cartridges with bullet diameter .243" or greater to be used for whitetail hunting in Indiana. This is a change that will not compromise safety and will encourage more in and out-of-state hunters to purchase licenses/tags and get into the outdoors.

Comment Received 11/12/2014 9:44:58 PM

Commenter Name Harold Boyer

City Goshen **County** ELKHART **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address skip_boyer@frontier.com

Comments Yes, I would like this rule to pass. Great opportunity to use some of the current rifles and allow young hunters more opportunity to hunt with better equipment. Thank you for proposing this rule change.

Comment Received 11/12/2014 9:52:31 PM

Commenter Name Craig Bierl

City La Porte **County** LAPORTE **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address Cabierl@comcast.net

Comments I strongly recommend against adding additional rifles for shooting deer. As it is now, the seasons are open to longer range guns. Opening this further will lead to more accidents and more problems. We are mostly a flat land state, we don't need 400 yard guns in every hunters hand. This will also lead to more wanton waste as deer are injured and not recovered. This rule is a bad idea. I am a lifelong hunter with over 120 harvests. This rule is not necessary.

Comment Received 11/12/2014 9:57:23 PM

Commenter Name Derek Craig

City Ashley **County** STEUBEN **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address decraig2000@hotmail.com

Comments I respectfully request that the proposed change to allow rifle calibers in .243 and higher for deer hunting to not be adopted into law. My feelings on this are that these rifle caliber additions are not needed in Indiana hunting. Hunting is supposed to be somewhat challenging. There is no challenge in shooting a deer with a rifle at 200 yards, it is simply target shooting. We are making hunting easier and easier every year and taking the "hunt" out of it. Slug guns and muzzleloaders have served everyone fine for years. I say NO to .243 and higher rifles in Indiana!

Comment Received 11/12/2014 9:59:55 PM

Commenter Name Keith Branham

City Indianapolis **County** MARION **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address Keithbranham@outlook.com

Comments Yes I support the new rifle hunting rule

Comment Received 11/12/2014 10:08:46 PM

Commenter Name Ed Hunt

City Kokomo **County** HOWARD **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address Rothhar1@aol.com

Comments I think its about darn time that the average hunter that does not want to spend a grand or two be able to maybe use the old rifle that was handed down by dad or grand dad to hunt deer in this state and not have to go pay a thousand or two on a wildcat rifle that is every bit as long range as any non magnum rifle ever built in a factory .On a side note the fact is that the rifles of today are no more lethal than todays long range ML or the bouncing shotgun slugs that actually travel much farther after hitting the ground than any modern rifle bullet .

I like the improved accuracy of the HPRs and recoil reduction will lead to cleaner kills due to more accuracy off the weapon and shooter . Bring on the HPRs and may I say its long past due here .

Comment Received 11/12/2014 10:10:08 PM

Commenter Name Matt Huhn

City Fort Wayne **County** ALLEN **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address mattjhuhn@gmail.com

Comments I support the proposed changes in cartridge for white tail deer hunting.

Comment Received 11/12/2014 10:32:53 PM

Commenter Name Steve Reinholt

City Commiskey **County** JENNINGS **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address lco912@yahoo.com

Comments I am in favor of the proposed rifle amendment to include 243 caliber and larger calibers for deer.

Comment Received 11/12/2014 10:33:44 PM

Commenter Name Katie Huhn

City Fort Wayne **County** ALLEN **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address katieahuhn@gmail.com

Comments I support the proposed caliber change for deer hunting in Indiana.

Comment Received 11/12/2014 10:35:09 PM

Commenter Name Mark Todd

City Delphi **County** CARROLL **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address matodd@tds.net

Comments I like the new rule changes, I think we should be able to hunt with a rifle that it is no more dangerous than using rifle cartridge in a hand gun.

Comment Received 11/12/2014 10:38:46 PM

Commenter Name Jim Street

City Sellersburg **County** CLARK **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address jjas3933@aol.com

Comments I support the change to rifles of .243 caliber and above.

Comment Received 11/12/2014 10:43:42 PM

Commenter Name Adam bratcher

City elizabeth **County** HARRISON **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address bratcher02@gmail.com

Comments I think this is a rule that is long over due !!

Kids and older people can't start hunting early or hunt late into their age because we have nothing low recoil to use in a firearm !

You can make a better cleaner ethical kill with a rifle !

Comment Received 11/12/2014 10:49:57 PM

Commenter Name Brandon McGill

City Huntertown **County** ALLEN **State** Indiana

Organization (optional) 1983

<p>E-Mail Address mac2jz@gmail.com Comments I support the use of .243 and larger for whitetail deer in Indiana Comment Received 11/12/2014 11:05:05 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Terry Ward City Elizabeth County HARRISON State Indiana E-Mail Address T.ward.99@hotmail.com Comments I believe that the rifle rule changes are a good ideal. The modern muzzleloader can shoot as far as some rifles and the current rules are allowing some very long range specialty rounds. I also think will help with the control of the herd. Also with the improved rounds we may see a decline in wounded animals. Comment Received 11/12/2014 11:12:24 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Chris Knies City Ferdinand County DUBOIS State IN - INDIANA E-Mail Address christopher.k.knies.mil@mail.mil Comments I believe the use of .243 or larger rifles should be adopted. Many adjoining states have this rule and is very beneficial to the hunter. This may increase license sales to outside residents to Indiana and increase economic sales to shops that sell rifles which increases the local economy. Comment Received 11/12/2014 11:13:14 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name ryan owens City noblesvill County HAMILTON State indiana E-Mail Address ryanmichaelowens@hotmail.com Comments I support the proposal to legalize rifles .243" and larger for deer in 2015. Comment Received 11/12/2014 11:19:01 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Tom Cypranowski City Dyer County LAKE State Indiana E-Mail Address cyprant@gmail.com Comments Please allow rifle hunting for deer of calibers .243 and above. It Just makes sense... Comment Received 11/12/2014 11:48:01 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name David Sawyer City English County CRAWFORD State IN Organization (optional) Basin Energy, Inc. E-Mail Address davidtsawyer@gmail.com Comments In the Biennial Rule Amendment Package, I support the adoption of most rifles for deer hunting. It broadens the choice of weapons to more closely align with the rest of the country. I don't have any safety concerns. I oppose the closing of the Ruffed Grouse season. If one wants to limit it, limit it to private ground. I don't know the exact numbers, but I'm willing to be the number taken hunting every year pale in comparison to the number eaten by predators. With hunting allowed on private ground, it encourages private land owners who are so inclined to make the improvements necessary to their land to reestablish a viable population. I own property, and I haven't had a chance to make those improvements yet because I haven't had it that long; but they are on my to do list. Comment Received 11/12/2014 11:49:00 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Mitch Lamm City Floyds Knobs County FLOYD State IN E-Mail Address lamm.mitch@yahoo.com Comments I fully support the change for calibers .243 and up to be legal to hunt deer. I think it is a common sense change. Most deer hunters and in a tree stand shooting downward, so a long range bullet will not travel far if it misses. On the contrary, squirrel hunting in IN, we are able to hunt with any caliber we want basically. Most people are aiming up when squirrel hunting. I think as the current law sits, these two situations contradict each other. Legalizing .243 and up for deer would be very beneficial for all IN hunters, and it is a common sense change. Comment Received 11/13/2014 12:40:37 AM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Brian Parkinson City Mount Vernon County POSEY State Indiana E-Mail Address brian.parkinson@att.net Comments I STRONGLY disagree with the proposed rule change allowing more high powered rifles during gun season. My family property joins state property that highly pressured during gun season and I feel this rule will make deer season even more dangerous. The idea that modern muzzle loaders are "500 yard" weapons is ridiculous. The idea that they are used for coyote hunting already is not a valid point for allowing them. The volume of coyote hunters versus deer hunters is not even close. If high powered rifles are allowed perhaps a compromise would be to allow a few specific calibers rather than the whole spectrum. Overall I feel the current law for rifles is perfect. For those who want to use a "wildcat" they have</p>

their options. The number of those folks have a minimal impact on safety in regards to other hunters. I strongly disagree with this proposal and do not want it passed. Thank you for hearing and considering my input.

Comment Received 11/13/2014 12:56:02 AM

Commenter Name Clayton D. Haisley

City Richmond **County** WAYNE **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address cdhais19862005@yahoo.com

Comments In regard to the proposed firearm caliber size changes for the deer firearms season: I strongly support this change. I have been a lifelong hunter in Indiana, and have also hunted in other states. In light of a comparative analysis similar to the rationale offered by the state in proposing the change, if it works in other states, it should work just as well here in Indiana. Kentucky is very similar to the Hoosier state, and yet their deer hunting regulations are nowhere near as archaic as ours. Sure, accidents can and probably still will happen to negligent hunters, but that is to be expected, as the state and most other hunters out in the woods, have no control over the irrational, inappropriate, or purely stupid individuals that fail to follow the basic tenets of ethics, good marksmanship, weapons safety, and hunting practices. But that is why we have the existing laws and penalties in our criminal code, as well as a number of state conservation officers, to account for and address those concerns. The so-called safety objections being raised by the opponents of this expansion, are absurd. Many of the muzzleloaders and handguns currently allowed by the existing regulations have destructive potentials and lethal ranges approaching or even exceeding many standard rifle cartridges. Given the continuous improvements in engineering and design, this performance gap will become even smaller, if not altogether non-existent in the future, thus rendering the objections of the opponent's of this proposal moot. Plus, since the opponents of this proposal are so hung up on safety concerns, I sincerely ask you to consider the reality of the situation from a law enforcement perspective in assessing which is really more dangerous: conservation officers having to risk encountering and assessing the intentions of groups of men in the woods armed with concealed handguns that are as powerful or more so than a rifle, or encountering that same small group where everybody is carrying a rifle or shotgun, which by their very nature, are much harder to conceal. I've had the honor of having my license checked numerous times by ICOs, and the only times these checks were remotely awkward, was when I was carrying a handgun. I've never had that problem when visited by ICOs while carrying my Beretta shotgun during deer season, most likely due to the difference in visibility of the weapon, and ease of assessing intentions. In this light, allowing more rifles into the woods doesn't seem so bad.

Another consequence of expanding this regulation, is that doing so will afford more citizens an opportunity to become involved in Indiana's deer hunting season. This should generate more revenue for the state and its conservation efforts, and thus allow the state to do more to preserve the natural habitats of our state over time. With more money in its coffers, the state and DNR could afford to undertake more ambitious or aggressive conservation efforts in areas of serious concern in a more rapid manner.

I would also like to have noted for the record that many of the people I know who oppose this proposed change are primarily bow hunters who decry the devastation that will be wrought upon the state's deer herd by an army of hunters entering the woods with semi-automatic centerfire rifles. Similar arguments and fear mongering were also used by those vigorously opposed to the state permitting crossbows to be used for archery season, and yet, the deer herd never even came remotely close to suffering the dramatic devastation which they predicted. The simple fact is that while many hunters who venture out during firearms season might prefer semi-automatic platforms, their cost is largely prohibitive. Semi-auto rifles are much more expensive than bolt action, single shot, or double rifles. Most of the deer hunters that currently participate in the firearms season now that use shotguns instead of the handguns available, use budget model Remington, Mossberg, or N.E.F. guns. Very few are willing to pay the money that some such as myself, have done for a Beretta, Benelli, or Browning shotgun costs, and then drag it out through the muck, briars, and temperature extremes one typically encounters during our two week deer season. So it seems highly unlikely, as the opponents of this proposal may claim, that the majority of hunters willing to take advantage of this opportunity, would be doing so armed with semi-automatic rifles capable of allowing one man to decimate an deer herd with a series of quickly placed shots.

I thank you for your time and consideration. I strongly support changing this rule, and many of the others listed in the proposed changes packet.

Comment Received 11/13/2014 4:36:34 AM

Commenter Name Kyle Goley

City Madison **County** JEFFERSON **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address Fordtough25@hotmail.com

Comments I support the .243 and up rifle legislation coming up. Thank you!

Comment Received 11/13/2014 4:44:21 AM

Commenter Name Alan Garbers

City Martinsville **County** MORGAN **State** IN

E-Mail Address alanjamesgarbers@yahoo.com

Comments I like the deer caliber change. I would like the crayfish trap restrictions clarified to allow larger entry points for those of us that catch crayfish for human consumption.

Comment Received 11/13/2014 5:13:55 AM

Commenter Name Bret Thomas

<p>City Mooresville County MORGAN State IN E-Mail Address BRET213@GMAIL.COM Comments I agree with and support rule changes allowing rifle cartridge of .243" diameter bullet with min 1&1/16th min case length. Comment Received 11/13/2014 5:24:25 AM</p>
<p>Commenter Name John K. Haendiges City Ramsey County HARRISON State IN E-Mail Address khaendiges@gmail.com Comments I approve of the rule as written. Comment Received 11/13/2014 6:24:15 AM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Douglas Girt City Anderson County MADISON State In. Organization (optional) Archery Proshop Owner E-Mail Address douglasgirt@gmail.com Comments If your going to use HP rifles, I would stay in the 308 Class round. These rounds are usally 2650 FPS range or less. Otherwise we will seeing Ultramags and everyother High Performance rounds. If you can't take a deer with this size of rounds then take up golf. Comment Received 11/13/2014 6:28:19 AM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Dewayne Gilbert City Martinsville County MORGAN State Indiana E-Mail Address dgilbert@lilly.com Comments I am in favor of allowing Rifles to be used for Deer Hunting during the firearms season. With the Muzzel loaders we have today, they can reach out 200 yards + anyway. Comment Received 11/13/2014 6:36:30 AM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Tim Hixson City Batesville County RIPLEY State Indiana E-Mail Address timothyhixson@hotmail.com Comments I fully support this change and look forward to it. Comment Received 11/13/2014 6:44:05 AM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Kyle Trambaugh City Loogootee County MARTIN State Indiana E-Mail Address rocketrepairguy@gmail.com Comments I fully support the changes to allow standard rifle cartridges in 312 IAC 9 (see below)</p> <p>This will allow me to introduce my 4 daughters to deer hunting. With the use of rifles that have less free recoil than shotguns. All of my daughters have small frames and they just cannot withstand the recoil of shotguns & muzzleloaders for that matter.</p> <p>(4) A rifle must fire a cartridge that meets the following specifications: (A).243) of an inch diameter or larger. (B) Have a minimum case length of one and sixteen-hundredths (1.16) inches. Comment Received 11/13/2014 6:48:24 AM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Nicholas Yoder City Decatur County ADAMS State Indiana E-Mail Address Glockgy@yahoo.com Comments I am ok with the proposed rifle season. However I think there should be a better consideration of calibers. Allowing anything bigger the .243 may run into problems in areas with open farm country. I think it would be wise to require a certain type of bullet be used. Such as Ballistic Tip bullets. If people start hunting with a 300 Win Mag loaded with 180 grain I see problems at some point. Over all I am ok with rifles statewide. I heard rumors about the proposed rule change. Someone stated it was only going to be in Southern Indiana. I feel it should be the same across the state or nothing at all. Comment Received 11/13/2014 6:51:18 AM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Craig Heller City Greenwood County JOHNSON State Indiana E-Mail Address romankatecraig@aol.com Comments I support the proposed change for the bullet diameter and maximum casing length. Allowing center fire rifles is a positive step and should lead to an improved deer hunting experience for many people in Indiana. As a hunter and former resident of Pennsylvania, I am glad this this proposed change is being considered and hope that it does pass. Comment Received 11/13/2014 6:57:50 AM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Denise Will City Evansville County VANDERBURGH State Indiana</p>

<p>E-Mail Address dmwill1598@gmail.com</p> <p>Comments I fully support the changes to allow the use of standard rifle cartridges in 312 IAC 9. This will allow me to deer hunt with a gun that provides much less felt recoil than shotguns or muzzleloaders.</p> <p>(4) A rifle must fire a cartridge that meets the following specifications: (A) Fire a bullet of two hundred fortythree thousandths (.243) of an inch diameter or larger. (B) Have a minimum case length of one and sixteen-hundredths (1.16) inches.</p> <p>Comment Received 11/13/2014 7:01:27 AM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Jason McClain</p> <p>City Spencerville County DEKALB State Indiana</p> <p>E-Mail Address jem1075@gmail.com</p> <p>Comments I am in favor of the new rule proposals to allow high power rifles in the state of Indiana. My vote is yes...</p> <p>Comment Received 11/13/2014 7:05:56 AM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Dave Dennis</p> <p>City Morgantown County MORGAN State IN</p> <p>E-Mail Address ddennis@brehob.com</p> <p>Comments I am in favor of adopting the Biennial Rule Amendment Package. The additional center fire rifles should make for a more humanitarian harvest and the study commissioned by the state of PA shows it would not be a safety concern.</p> <p>Comment Received 11/13/2014 7:22:19 AM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Ben Magenheimer</p> <p>City Evansville County VANDERBURGH State IN</p> <p>E-Mail Address mach1coupe@yahoo.com</p> <p>Comments I hope Indiana can use full power rifle rounds in the future. (.243+) Also legal Short barreled rifles, less than 16" barrel with a buttstock.</p> <p>Comment Received 11/13/2014 7:35:19 AM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Daniel Streckfuss</p> <p>City Noblesville County HAMILTON State Indiana</p> <p>E-Mail Address daniel.streckfuss@gmail.com</p> <p>Comments I support the rule change to permit rifle calibers of .243 and larger and the removal maximum case length. Most hunters operate either from tree stands from which they shoot toward the ground or in hilly terrain which acts as an effective backstop for projectiles. Many other states with varying terrains permit rifle calibers and instances of injury, death, or damage from errant projectiles are rare.</p> <p>Comment Received 11/13/2014 7:38:52 AM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Sam Hennessee</p> <p>City Brookville County FRANKLIN State Indiana</p> <p>E-Mail Address Sam.hennessee@bayer.com</p> <p>Comments I do not support the expansion of high powered rifles. Multiple people on small lots with these weapons will cause damage and injury. Poaching will be greater and easier than it already is. We have a residence in low ground where people shoot down onto our property. We can hear the slugs now and would hate to enable these idiots the opportunity to use a rifle. I am hunter certified and a lifetime hunter. Please do not allow this.</p> <p>Comment Received 11/13/2014 7:41:47 AM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Adam Kirchner</p> <p>City Columbus County BARTHOLOMEW State Indiana</p> <p>E-Mail Address adamkirchner@hotmail.com</p> <p>Comments I am in favor of allowing the use of rifles .243 and above for deer hunting. With the current rules there are "wildcat rounds" that can meet the ballistics of standard high powered rifles. For me personally I look forward to being able to use more accurate firearms to deliver a quicker and more humane kill. Thanks</p> <p>Comment Received 11/13/2014 7:51:02 AM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Hershel Burson</p> <p>City Fort Wayne County ALLEN State Indiana</p> <p>E-Mail Address hershel.burson@gmail.com</p> <p>Comments I am in favor of using 308 caliber deer rifle for deer hunting. If it can be used for coyote hunting, then why not deer?</p> <p>Comment Received 11/13/2014 7:55:01 AM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Bruce Wood</p> <p>City Portland County JAY State Indiana</p> <p>E-Mail Address woody1071@gmail.com</p> <p>Comments I fully support the proposed new regulations regarding centerfire rifles. I am one that has been taking advantage of the latest rules regarding case length and bullet diameter. Last year I started shortening .358 Winchester</p>

cases to the 1.8" maximum length. I will be using it again this year. If it passes I won't have to shorten cases anymore. A plus for me.

I have also read the Pennsylvania study that compared projectile travel distance from shotguns and centerfire rifles. Shot at minimal elevation angles (like ground level hunting) the shotgun slug will ricochet and retain its shape and travel farther than a centerfire rifle projectile as it would fragment and lose energy with impact of the ground. Thus the shotgun being at least as dangerous as a centerfire rifle and probably more.

Both are on equal standing while being used from a treestand or elevated hunting with the more extreme shooting angles.

I have read arguments on hunting forums that since centerfire rifles are more accurate that too many deer will be harvested. Accuracy is what we are all looking for! Accuracy is what could lead to more humane and quicker kills.

One could go on with positives and negatives but I really feel like the positives far outweigh the negatives on this issue

Please allow the use of centerfire rifles as proposed.

Thanks!

Comment Received 11/13/2014 8:06:36 AM

Commenter Name David Wiesman

City West Harrison **County** FRANKLIN **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address Wiesman@fuse.net

Comments I would like to comment on the proposed use of rifles for the deer firearms season. I am concerned about the distance that a center fired rifle bullet can carry over that of a shotgun slug or muzzle loader bullet. Population density and urban sprawl continue to increase and the likelihood of a ricochet or an errant shot from a longer traveling rifle bullet has to be higher. I currently have a rifle that shoots a 200 grain, .358 bullet from a cartridge that is just under 1.8 inches at velocities that could exceed 1800 feet per second. I am a very responsible 57 year old man, very versed in firearms and hunting safety. I am concerned about younger, more excitable hunters having the ability to use a weapon like this or one even more powerful, that could seriously hurt or kill someone miles away. I believe a lot of consideration needs to be given to if, or where, center fire rifles can be used.

Comment Received 11/13/2014 8:20:52 AM

Commenter Name Nathan Boner

City Orleans **County** ORANGE **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address nmboner@indiana.edu

Comments I just wanted to say that I am in favor of the rule changes put forth. Personally I think it's about time we were able to use larger caliber bullets to deer hunt with. I've heard the arguments against it and they really just come down to what people prefer and them trying to force their opinion on others by opposing this change.

Comment Received 11/13/2014 8:25:41 AM

Commenter Name Jim St.Charles

City Arcadia **County** HAMILTON **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address stcharles.jim@gmail.com

Comments I strongly support the amendments to Section 5. 312 IAC 9-3-3 as they pertain to permitted rifle cartridges for hunting deer. This is a very logical amendment as it is in line with permitted cartridges for other Indiana game. This amendment will also increase the probability of humane kills

Comment Received 11/13/2014 8:48:49 AM

Commenter Name Travis McEowen

City Columbia City **County** WHITLEY **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address gusmc01@gmail.com

Comments Regarding Rule 312 IAC 9-3-3 Equipment for deer hunting. Advances in shotgun slug ammunition manufacturing have created numerous slug loads capable of excellent accuracy. Coupled with rifled slug barrels, slugs are more accurate now than ever. Indiana's terrain dictates the style of hunting in the state. Small woodlots near agricultural fields with most hunters hunting from elevated stands. These conditions create most shot opportunities at deer inside 100 yards. Slugs are more than adequate for these types of shots. By allowing rifle cartridges .243 and larger, it will increase the hunter's effective range. This introduces more long range shots, increasing the risk to hunter's on adjacent properties. Since Indiana is more densely populated than many areas that allow deer hunting with these cartridges, it will increase the risk of bullets striking buildings or people. It will also lead to hunters taking shots at deer at longer ranges than they are potentially capable of. This could lead to more wounded deer as hunters take ill-advised shots at distances beyond their shooting abilities. I am generally not in favor of changing the rule to include these cartridges for deer hunting. Indiana hunters have been able to successfully harvest record numbers of deer over the past decade without the use of .243 and higher powered rifle cartridges. If the rule were to pass, I would hope that deer reduction zones and other "urban" or residential areas would remain shotgun only. If the rule passes, I would also like it to be on the condition that the firearm season will be shortened (similar to Illinois or Ohio). Allowing these rifle cartridges will dramatically increase the shot opportunities for hunters (due to increased effective range), putting even more pressure on an already pressured deer herd. It should not be a problem to fill

tags in a shorter season if high powered rifles are allowed. Thank you for opportunity to comment.

Comment Received 11/13/2014 8:54:08 AM

Commenter Name Austin Rush

City Rensselaer **County** JASPER **State** IN

Organization (optional) 1987

E-Mail Address 87rushy05@gmail.com

Comments I am for the rule changes. Especially for the rifle caliber changes. Being that those calibers can be used in a handgun and similar wildcat bullets achieve same performance of the proposed changes.

Comment Received 11/13/2014 9:02:02 AM

Commenter Name Jody Bell

City New Castle **County** HENRY **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address jodybell71@gmail.com

Comments I like the changes to the caliber of rifles to be used for deer hunting and appreciate the opportunity to be able to more accurately take game. Good job on this one and keep up the good work.

Comment Received 11/13/2014 9:02:55 AM

Commenter Name Jason Brown

City Washington **County** DAVIESS **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address crktm21@yahoo.com

Comments I agree with all current proposals.

Thank you,

Jason

Comment Received 11/13/2014 9:10:37 AM

Commenter Name M Colchin

City Bedford **County** LAWRENCE **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address colchimd@embarqmail.com

Comments I support the proposed rule change to legalize rifle calibers .243 and greater. This change has been a long-time coming. There is no scientific evidence that shotguns & handguns are safer than rifles and many states that border Indiana allow such rifles with no significant increase in accidents due to rifles. Also, with the over-population of deer in some areas, there is no reason to restrict hunting calibers based upon animal harvests. Allowing rifle calibers will not magically wipe deer populations out, nor will it significantly alter deer harvests in my opinion. What allowing rifle calibers WILL do is promote better marksmanship. Rifles calibers are effected MUCH less by wind and are superior to shotgun & handguns in external ballistics. Superior external ballistics means more 1 shot kills, fewer misses, fewer maimed animals, and an overall much better hunting experience. Another great benefit to allowing rifle calibers is that many rifles recoil significantly less than shotguns and most pistol caliber carbines or handguns. This means that recoil sensitive people (primarily women and children) will be much more apt to join the outdoor sports by hunting deer. This one benefit alone far outweighs any negatives in my opinion. The key to keeping out sport alive is keeping people interested; the more women and children we can keep interested the longer out sport will live on into the future. The key to keeping them involved is to make the experience enjoyable, and it is VERY hard for a recoil sensitive person to enjoy the hunt when they cannot tolerate the recoil of the state-mandated weapons. More enjoyable means more practice before the hunt which means better marksmanship during the hunt.

Comment Received 11/13/2014 9:11:35 AM

Commenter Name Bill Hyde

City Indianapolis **County** MARION **State** IN

E-Mail Address bnchyde@sbcglobal.net

Comments I am in favor of removing caliber restrictions for deer hunting with rifles. At present, many are using wildcat rounds that equal popular centerfire rifles in ballistic performance.

And, there are well known studies that address the perceived safety issues.

I move its adoption!

Thanks

Comment Received 11/13/2014 9:13:08 AM

Commenter Name Ricco Semento

City Kouts **County** PORTER **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address spin@nightclubdj.com

Comments I agree with the rule change to allow center fire rifles, many hunters do not have the funds to purchase specialty rifles to hunt, and other states around us allow these calibers. It would open up many opportunities for young hunters with limited budgets.

Comment Received 11/13/2014 9:16:25 AM

Commenter Name Travis Stinson

City Muncie **County** DELAWARE **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address tjstinson@bsu.edu

Comments I fully support these changes to the state law regarding the authorized equipment to hunt deer. I think it shows

the state legislators and the DNR can and will listen to the requests of Indiana sportsmen and women. Furthermore, I believe this is a rule change that is very much needed. Indiana is no different in terms of population and topography than many other states that already allow the use of high powered rifles. Why then do we choose to be different and limit the use of equipment to shotguns and custom cartridges? Which brings me to my next point- the addition of these high powered calibers is really no different then some of the calibers already authorized such as the .358 and .450 wildcat rifles. It just makes hunting more affordable by allowing the more common calibers. I hope this rule will pass and will be adopted. I see it as a step in the right direction for the state of Indiana.

Comment Received 11/13/2014 9:21:25 AM

Commenter Name Nathan Blazer
City Franklin **County** JOHNSON **State** IN
E-Mail Address htrailblazer13@aol.com

Comments I would like to be able to hunt with the most accurate bolt action rifles made today and the current rules do not allow that for our biggest game. I feel that the bullet technology today allows for the safe taking of larger game. I also feel that current production of rifled slugs in slug guns equals the power and trajecotries of currently illegal rifle caliber rounds. I believe that allowing additional callibers in rifles will aslo help youth and women hunters who are sensitive to recoil enjoy hunting and not be intimidated leading to more youth and women hunters in the state. This will help the DNR with additional revenue to help protect our natural resoruces.

Comment Received 11/13/2014 9:29:56 AM

Commenter Name Adam Dines
City Franklin **County** JOHNSON **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address strikemedic75@yahoo.com

Comments I am strongly in favor of allowing rifles to be used for deer hunting, however, I believe a magazine restriction should also be in place. Rifles like AR15s and AK47s have no place in the deer woods unless they are limited. Single shot rifles are the most optimal compromise.

Comment Received 11/13/2014 9:48:36 AM

Commenter Name Jeremy Loehmer
City Greensburg **County** DECATUR **State** IN
E-Mail Address jeremiah.loehmer@gmail.com

Comments I am absolutely in favor of the proposed rule change allowing centerfire cartridges .243 and up. States with very similar terrain and population densities have allowed rifles for a long time, and show no rise in accidents. In fact, studies show that heavy, slow slugs are more dangerous from ricochet.

Comment Received 11/13/2014 10:19:22 AM

Commenter Name Wayne Kannapel
City English **County** CRAWFORD **State** Indiana
Organization (optional) Retired Military
E-Mail Address kannapelw@yahoo.com

Comments In reference to the change in the rifle diameter down to a.243 round. We are opening the door to a lot of problems down here in the southern part of the state. It is all ready very easy to go out and just kill any deer. My children do it every year with very little effort. We do not need any more weapons to be used. A high powered rifle is a killing machine. The rule change says nothing about magazine capacity!!! I still have a lot of 30 round magazines. You throw a few of these guys with these killing machines in the middle of Hoosier National Forest on opening weekend of deer gun season and we will have blood on our hands. I have seen it many times by irresponsible deer hunters with the spray and pray, brown its down mentally. Most places here in the southern third of the state, you cant even shoot a 100 yard shot, so a shotgun or muzzle loaded gun has plenty of range. This will also cause a lot more poaching in this area. I have hunted twice on the edge of fields in the evenings had vehicles stop on the road and discharge their guns 200-300 yards at deer out in the fields grazing. That's a long shot with shotguns, but with a HPR it is a very easy shot with a rest. I called COs both times after incidents to report possible poaching and shots fired from the road, but there is no carcass, so was a crime committed? So I am totally against any new rifle rounds being added to the rule changes ever in the future. Thank you, Wayne Kannapel, First Sergeant retired.

Comment Received 11/13/2014 10:19:55 AM

Commenter Name Jon Nolting
City Elizabethtown **County** BARTHOLOMEW **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address jpnolting@gmail.com

Comments It is my opinion that the NRC should allow rifles chambered in .243 and larger. It is confusing as stated now that one can use a rifle chambered in a handgun caliber and a handgun chambered in a rifle caliber but not a rifle in a rifle caliber. I think it would be beneficial to the heard reduction goal of the NRC to allow rifles chambered in any caliber .243 and larger.

Comment Received 11/13/2014 10:24:51 AM

Commenter Name Tyler Staggs
City Noblesville **County** HAMILTON **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address tyler_staggs@hotmail.com

Comments I think the inclusion of 'regular' rifles (312 IAC 9-3-3) for use during the firearms deer season is a very good and

progressive move. One of the main concerns is recruitment and retention of hunters. This allows for the use of equipment that is more suitable to newcomers to the sport of deer hunting. For the most part, rifles that meet the new rules recoil much less than the firearms traditionally allowed in Indiana. This will help new hunters feel more confident and get in more shooting practice prior to deer hunting. Likewise, the reduced recoil will allow more experienced hunters to place their shots more effectively leading to fewer wounding issues. I am of the opinion that these types of rifles are more suited and effective for deer hunting than those traditionally permitted for use in Indiana.

However, I do think that the minimum diameter of .243" is short sighted and biased. I realize there is a bit of controversy about the use of .224" caliber rifles for big game. That said, it is more of a bullet construction issue rather than a weight or diameter issue. Many companies are producing bullets in .224" that are quite suitable for big game, especially deer hunting. These bullets are being employed by many hunters in a wide range of states with success. In fact, a small amount of research will show that .224" caliber rifles are legal in more states than they are illegal. I am of the opinion that the track record in these states should more than justify the lowering of the minimum in Indiana to .224". If one is skeptical about the use of some types of bullets in .224", like those designed for target shooting or small game hunting, I think the approach used in Wyoming is a better way to address it than setting the minimum at .243". Two years ago Wyoming made it legal to use .224" diameter rifles after having a long history of a .243" minimum for big game. The caveat they attached to the new rule was that the bullet weight had to be greater than 60 grains. I think this is a better move than prohibiting the bullet diameter. For one, many of the .224" diameter bullets designed for big game hunting already weigh 60 grains or more. This largely eliminates the use of lighter bullets designed for targets and pests in this diameter. However, as the rule is currently written the only requirements for a rifle are a bullet diameter and a case length. Therefore, it is not addressing the use of improper bullets of larger diameters. A well constructed .224" bullet of 60 grains, such as the Nosler Partition, fired out of a 223 Remington (or larger case) is a much more effective deer round than many bullet/cartridges that would be made legal with the new rule. Thirty-caliber (.308" bullets) rifles are the most commonly bought and used rifles in this country. Due to that .308" bullets are being produced that cover a wide gamut of uses. A 300 Winchester Magnum firing a 110 grain bullet designed for varmints at an extremely high rate of speed would be legal for use in Indiana as the proposed rule change is written. Most anyone with an understanding of ballistics would recognize this as not suitable round for hunting deer and it would be much less effective than a .224" bullet of stout construction.

In conclusion, I am in support of the rule as proposed as I think it is a needed change. However, I think the minimum bullet size should be reduced to .224". One cannot create rules/laws that remove unwise decisions when it comes to bullet choice. I am fully confident that the sportsmen of this state would make the right bullet choices for hunting deer regardless if it's .224" or .243" or larger.

Comment Received 11/13/2014 11:13:57 AM

Commenter Name Samuel Adkins

City Henryville **County** CLARK **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address giiibass@aol.com

Comments I think the rule allowing high power rifles is a good idea.

Comment Received 11/13/2014 11:34:13 AM

Commenter Name Jerry D. Coats

City Portland **County** JAY **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address thegreatwhitebuffalo44@yahoo.com

Comments On the new proposal for the permitted rifles for the deer firearms season, the rifles shooting .243 or larger, I am all for that. I personally don't see it causing safety problems or effecting deer harvests. It's simply giving the hunter more weapon options.

Comment Received 11/13/2014 11:35:49 AM

Commenter Name Tom Trambaugh

City Loogootee **County** MARTIN **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address ttrambaugh@nwcable.net

Comments I support the rule change for use of rifles in Indiana

Comment Received 11/13/2014 11:42:49 AM

Commenter Name Nathan Carrico

City Loogootee **County** MARTIN **State** Indiana

Organization (optional) Carrico International

E-Mail Address nathancarrico98@hotmail.com

Comments I am an avid hunter and fishermen to the State of Indiana. I have read some information that was gathered from the State of PA. They were very proud of the Safety of its Rifle Program.. I also believe that just like updating the CROSSBOW into legal hunting format, has benefited IDNR. Just Imagine what RIFLE will due for revenue. I am from the southern part of the state. Where excessive distances will not be any issue for most. AGAIN I WOULD JUST LIKE TO EXPRESS MY SUPPORT FOR MAKING .243 AND ABOVE A LEGAL METHOD OF HUNTING!!

Comment Received 11/13/2014 11:50:01 AM

Commenter Name Thomas Roach

City Bloomfield **County** GREENE **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address troach@indiana.edu

Comments I think the new rule of allowing center fire rifles 243 or larger is a good one. Technology has far surpassed the original intent of the "shotgun only" rule. We have 200yrd slug guns and 4-500 yrd muzzleloaders. I have friends who shoot AR's in 450 bushmaster that are capable of 200+ yds shooting as well....I think the time is long past to change this rule. NOW on to the rule about grouse- I can the point of closing the season ON PAPER- in fact we call grouse "hunting" a grouse walk...BUT here is the thing, closing the season isnt going to CHANGE A THING, until this state steps up and creates COVER and HABITAT for grouse they are never coming back....I can see reducing the limit to one...but really how many people KILLED TWO GROUSE LAST YEAR??? IN THE WHOLE SEASON?? My bet is none...this is an attempt, a weak one, but an attempt that will do no good at all for grouse until habitat changes. Private land can only do so much, I actually saw grouse on my farm (Greene County) last year, and saw one at goose pond while quail hunting.....Goose Pond is well managed, most FWA and other public grounds are NOT. It seems the IDNR is afraid of the tree huggers..Im sorry to sound harsh, but closing the season wont change a thing....we need to log the state forests...plain and simple...you know it and outdoors-folks do too..we need to wake up and smell the Folgers people...we also need to cut the limit on quail to 4 in south and 2 in north....thank you for allowing me to speak my thoughts, I think the rifle rule change is a good one, I think the grouse change is a waste of time.

Comment Received 11/13/2014 11:53:50 AM

Commenter Name mike tribble

City warren **County** HUNTINGTON **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address mtribble2@gmail.com

Comments I would like to see the rule change approved that allows rifle of .243 & larger legal for hunting deer in the state of Indiana. Thank you

Comment Received 11/13/2014 12:03:39 PM

Commenter Name Jedidiah Hunt

City Kokomo **County** HOWARD **State** IN

E-Mail Address Jedidiah.Hunt33@gmail.com

Comments I agree and support changing the rules governing Rifles to include all centerfire rifle cartridges .243 and larger. I do, however, believe there should be limitations on where the use of centerfire rifles is allowed. Perhaps, all zones considered to be "Urban" should not allow the use of centerfire rifles. Also, I question their usage on public hunting grounds ran by the DNR that lack terrain features that will undoubtedly stop a bullet. I do, however, believe the terrain of the HNF and State Forests should coincide well with their usage

Comment Received 11/13/2014 12:30:38 PM

Commenter Name Nelson Bettner

City Boggstown **County** SHELBY **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address kjbettner@gmail.com

Comments I think making more calibers of rifles legal for deer hunting would be fine. Less wounded deer and more opportunities for youngsters and women to participate in the sport. These calibers are already legal for handguns so a few inches longer barrel should make no difference.

Comment Received 11/13/2014 12:56:28 PM

Commenter Name scott schillig

City Grovertown **County** STARKE **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address esshup@mediacommbb.net

Comments I very strongly do NOT agree with adding the wording "repeal" or "before it's repeal" in any of the proposed legislation in regards or reference to lifetime hunting, fishing, trapping or any type of comprehensive lifetime license. When the licenses were sold, the wording on what I consider to be a contract between the state and the license holder, said that the license was good for as long as the person was alive and was not transferable. Adding the word repeal means that it could be repealed, and that is not the intent of the original contract.

I agree that the use of rifles that fire cartridges with projectiles .243" in diameter or larger and having a case length longer than 1.16" should be allowed to be used as legal deer hunting equipment. The same cases/cartridges are legal to use now in pistols, and are legal to use on varmints. Why not deer?

In regards to possessing game that dies as a result of a motor vehicle accident, why not allow another law enforcement officer to give permission like they can now? Why strike "another law enforcement officer" from the statute?? I don't agree with that part of the proposed change.

I am not in favor of adding the wording "must not (9) take or chase a wild pig with the use or aid of a dog, with the exception of authorized federal and state wildlife management employees."

Other game is legal to be hunted with the use of dogs, and dogs are a very useful tool to control wild pigs. I think that they should be allowed to be used. What makes authorized federal and state wildlife employees any better trained to use dogs to control wild pigs than people who raise and train dogs for that purpose?

I don't agree with the change in the turtle regulation. In my observations, I believe that the population of soft shell turtles is

still large enough to allow harvest of more than 4 per day, and also is still large enough to allow harvest of them smaller than 12" carapace length. That would make a kid who catches a baby turtle and takes it home for his aquarium a lawbreaker. I don't think that is right. I have caught more than 4 softshell turtles on a trot line while fishing for catfish, and they have died because of not being able to breathe. Would I be charged for wanton waste if I were to cut the line and let the dead ones float in the lake if I had more than 4 on the trotline? Is it worth a CO's time and expense to come out to verify that I am doing the right thing by not taking the turtles?

I do not agree with the change in daily sunfish "take". As a fisheries biologist, I do not know of any body of water in the state that will not support a daily take of 50 or more sunfish. I feel that a daily take of 25 sunfish of all species together is too restrictive. In bodies of water that do not have a sufficient population of the correct sized Largemouth Bass, sunfish can overpopulate and stunt.

Comment Received 11/13/2014 1:00:26 PM

Commenter Name Zach Potter

City Fishers County HAMILTON **State** IN

E-Mail Address jaminzach@yahoo.com

Comments I am so encouraged and excited to see the proposal for adopting standard rifle calibers for deer hunting in Indiana. It will be a great thing for people like me as I am introducing 2 of my 3 children to deer hunting this year. The recoil from shotguns and large bore rifles is so much harder for them to control, I look forward to letting them hunt with my 243 next year. It is time to allow deer rifles for deer hunting, thank you!

Zach Potter

Comment Received 11/13/2014 1:02:14 PM

Commenter Name chris sausman

City osceola County ST.JOSEPH **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address cjsausman@cs.com

Comments I work in the hunting industry and sell both firearms and ammunition to my dealers. I do not feel with the small average size of hunting properties in general, the population density and overall lack of education of the type firearms Platform its is not a good idea. I also feel the status of Michigan to our north which has had a rifle hunting culture for many years solidifies my position not allowing unlimited rifle caliber hunting options in the southern counties of the state

Comment Received 11/13/2014 1:05:03 PM

Commenter Name david pyle

City indianapolis County HENDRICKS **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address dapyle@ameritech.net

Comments please pass this rule. I am in favor of. thank you

Comment Received 11/13/2014 1:07:18 PM

Commenter Name Adrian Luntzel

City memphis County CLARK **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address Aljen01@twc.com

Comments I am in favor of allowing rifles above .223 for deer hunting in Indiana. I has been in practice actually for several years with all the "wildcat" calibers in use such as the .358 Hoosier and .358 BFG. and others.

Comment Received 11/13/2014 1:11:28 PM

Commenter Name Al Yelich

City Crown Point County LAKE **State** IN

E-Mail Address ayelich@berlinmetals.com

Comments I've hunted states where it is legal to hunt with Rifles and would be in favor of Indiana expanding its list of allowable rifles.

Comment Received 11/13/2014 1:18:10 PM

Commenter Name John Abernathy

City Lexington County SCOTT **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address abernathy70@gmail.com

Comments I think the proposed changes allowing rifles is long over due! This is the best thing I've heard proposed in a long time !

Comment Received 11/13/2014 1:18:47 PM

Commenter Name Tony McGlocklin

City gosport County MONROE **State** indiana

E-Mail Address 358hoosier@gmail.com

Comments I think we should open it up to all sized above 243

Comment Received 11/13/2014 1:19:30 PM

Commenter Name Jason mcgowen

City Mooresville County MORGAN **State** indiana

E-Mail Address jasonmcgowen@aol.com

Comments It only makes sense to allow centerfire rifle deer hunting in Indiana. Allowing them for coyotes and other game and not deer makes no sense and doesn't increase and dangerous concerns in my opinion.

Comment Received 11/13/2014 1:20:44 PM

Commenter Name Brent Haley

City Bedford **County** LAWRENCE **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address harley72@gmail.com

Comments I am in favor of allowing rifles calibers of .243 and greater to be allowed as a legal deer hunting firearm in Indiana. Please approve these calibers.

We currently safely hunt with these calibers if used out of a handgun platform.

We safely use these calibers for coyote hunting.

There are many states that are as populated and have the same topography as Indiana that are safely using these calibers for deer hunting.

The modern muzzle loading (black powder) rifles, being used heavily today, have as much range as the proposed rifle cartridges do and have been used safely for some time now.

Contrary to what some people believe, I believe that we deserve a choice as to what hunting tool we use, as long as it is an ethical and safe tool. I so no reason what so ever that these proposed calibers not be allowed. And unsafe hunter will be and unsafe hunter regardless of what tool the said hunter is using.

Thank you

Brent Haley

Comment Received 11/13/2014 1:21:09 PM

Commenter Name Michael Barton

City Camby **County** MORGAN **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address barton174@gmail.com

Comments I think using real rifle calibers for deer hunting is long over-due for Indiana, and I think that the provision to use anything .243 and up should pass!

Comment Received 11/13/2014 1:22:40 PM

Commenter Name William Leach

City Indianapolis **County** MARION **State** IN

E-Mail Address shelbybildo@yahoo.com

Comments I think it's about time Indiana passes the use of high powered rifles. It seems like there have been steps toward that end over the last several years and I'm glad to see it. Why not allow a hunter to use the best equipment available with a great chance of a humane kill. I can't see the accident rate change any because of it. If a hunter is unsafe about what he/she is doing it will be that way no matter what weapon they use.

Comment Received 11/13/2014 1:23:36 PM

Commenter Name Steve Dickover

City Noblesville **County** HAMILTON **State** INDIANA

E-Mail Address sjdickover@gmail.com

Comments As long as there is somekind of max on rounds loaded in the gun. All guns except revolvers.

Comment Received 11/13/2014 1:25:45 PM

Commenter Name Shane Phipps

City Indianapolis **County** MARION **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address shphipp@gmail.com

Comments I am in favor of the proposal to allow high powered rifles of .243 or higher its legal weapons in the Indiana deer firearms season.

Comment Received 11/13/2014 1:26:04 PM

Commenter Name John Tyner

City Springport **County** HENRY **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address tabofpraise1@juno.com

Comments I would like to see the DNR adopt the new rule allowing High Powered Rifles. Thank you

Comment Received 11/13/2014 1:28:33 PM

Commenter Name Donna Reinholt

City Commiskey **County** JENNINGS **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address Djreinholt@yahoo.com

Comments I support DNR proposed rifle rule

Comment Received 11/13/2014 1:29:44 PM

Commenter Name DUANE BUTT

City BRAZIL **County** CLAY **State** INDIANA

E-Mail Address DBUTT2@JUNO.COM

Comments I'm all for the change in caliber and case length. It will make more humane kills on deer. And I believe it will help control the deer population even better.

Comment Received 11/13/2014 1:30:20 PM

Commenter Name Dennis Howe

City Tell City **County** PERRY **State** In

Organization (optional) RC&D Fish & Wildlife

E-Mail Address dhowe@psci.net

Comments Great , can't wait to use Grandpas , dads, old rifle it has been a long time coming also it's more of a better choice to hunt deer, and a whole lot cheaper than some ammo on market today Thank u dnr for this change proposal GO FOR IT.

Comment Received 11/13/2014 1:35:29 PM

Commenter Name Lyle gill

City jasper **County** DUBOIS **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address lyle7402000@yahoo.com

Comments I like the new gun regulation as I have a 2506 that I would like to use.

Comment Received 11/13/2014 1:36:02 PM

Commenter Name Lyle gill

City jasper **County** DUBOIS **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address lyle7402000@yahoo.com

Comments I like the new gun regulation as I have a 2506 that I would like to use.

Comment Received 11/13/2014 1:37:52 PM

Commenter Name Travis Stinson

City Muncie **County** DELAWARE **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address tjstinson@bsu.edu

Comments I fully support the rule changes in this package, specifically the rule change that would allow the use of high powered rifles in the state of Indiana. I will now lay out some reasons why I believe this is a good rule change and why I believe it should have been enacted a long time ago.

First off, some opponents to this rule change will say we should not allow high powered rifles for deer because Indiana is too populated. Their reasoning behind this is that there are too many houses per square mile and that a stray bullet will lead to more hunting accidents, possibly even accidents involving innocent bystanders. To this, I ask we all look at states like New York, Pennsylvania, and Kentucky. These are all states that allow high powered rifles and have a somewhat similar if not higher population density in certain areas. We do not hear of massive amounts of hunting accidents coming out of these states, do we? Why would we expect Indiana hunters to be any different? If we do not trust Indiana hunters to be responsible when hunting with firearms, than maybe we should also make it illegal for wildcat or custom rounds to be used in Indiana as well.

This brings me to my next point: Indiana is essentially already allowing high powered rifles. With many custom guns being built that can shoot 200+ yards like the .358 or the .450, how would allowing a 30-06 or .243 be any different? Are we, as a state, trying to limit access to these high powered rifles and make them available only to the wealthy hunters? A wildcat or custom built rifle goes for a thousand dollars or more, while a good .270 can be bought brand new at any of a number local sporting goods stores for around 300. Why not allow Indiana hunters to use these high powered rifles and make the tax revenue from the hundreds of thousands of people who will venture out to purchase a new deer rifle? Not only that, but if high powered rifles are allowed, the state could also see more people lining up to purchase an out of state license for the deer firearms.

Furthermore, why would Indiana say we can't use high powered rifles for deer and then in the exact same regulation book, allow any and all equipment for the taking of coyotes? It is time for the state of Indiana to quit contradicting itself. Either allow the high power caliber rifles for deer hunting or ban the use of them altogether. Also, if the state will not allow the use of them, then the pistol caliber rifles should be outlawed as well. Go back to the old way of thinking and ban rifles, only allow shotguns, ban the high tech muzzleloaders that can shoot out to 300 yards, ban the crossbow, and reinstate the two buck rule. That's all me being sarcastic but it illustrates my point. Rule changes might be controversial but thats to be expected. What should not be expected is to have a hunting regulation book that is full of contradictions and exceptions.

Lastly, some people will try to argue that because Indiana is a flatter state in terms of topography, we should not allow high powered rifles. They say hunters will be shooting at deer and if they miss, that bullet could travel into a house or a building that lies beyond the intended target. Here again, as with the argument of too many people, I ask that we look at other states that allow high powered rifles. Do we see them reporting record numbers of hunter accidents? In New York, we did actually. Just last year, New York celebrated one of its safest hunting seasons on record, with a record low of hunter accidents. Furthermore, across the nation, the most accidents that occur while hunting are not instances involving guns, but are actually instances in which a hunter has fell from the tree stand. Maybe the DNR should enforce a tree safety regulation instead of worrying about the type of rifle that a hunter is using.

I will close in saying that I appreciate the efforts of the DNR and all those serving on the Natural Resources Commission. I hope you will make the decision based on real information and not on emotions or the status quo.

Comment Received 11/13/2014 1:39:38 PM

Commenter Name Roger Jetmore

City Fremont **County** STEUBEN **State** IN

E-Mail Address Rwjetmore@gmail.com

Comments I'm in favor of legalizing certain rifle calibers to be used during the gun deer season. I'm not sure which ones were recommended but the 30/30, 35 rem, 45/70, 444 in that class wouldn't carry as far as a 270, 30-06. Maybe limit them to private property only

Comment Received 11/13/2014 1:44:46 PM

Commenter Name Stephen A. Clark

City Trafalgar **County** JOHNSON **State** Indian

Organization (optional) N/A

E-Mail Address Pappyclark51@icloud.com

Comments I'm so glad that Indiana is catching up with all the surrounding states on all of our borders, it just makes sense that high powered rifles be allowed to hunt larger game. The new muzzleloader rifle have the same range as most of the rifles that will be used in the taking of deer, in closings as in all weapons the safety lies in the person using it! Thanks SAC.

Comment Received 11/13/2014 1:47:02 PM

Commenter Name Lance Stallcop

City Brazil **County** CLAY **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address lance@hoosiers.net

Comments I agree with the rule changes regarding legal rifle calibers for deer hunting.

Comment Received 11/13/2014 1:47:30 PM

Commenter Name Jim Peter

City Jasper **County** DUBOIS **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address jppeter@twc.com

Comments I am 100% in favor of the rule changes allowing more centerfire calibers to be used to hunt deer in Indiana. Such rifles have been used in KY for years with no problems.

Comment Received 11/13/2014 1:50:10 PM

Commenter Name Ron Weir

City Scottsburg **County** SCOTT **State** indiana

E-Mail Address ron.weir@c3bb.com

Comments not in favor of expanding rifle calibers. we need to model gun usage after iowa, illinois, ohio not other states that are not farm belt states and not good models. for some reason we seem to knee jerk to comments every year as to weapon choices. Also using smokeless muzzleloaders ranges are not a good reason to change since not many hunters will be using them. Using magnum rifles will open more poaching, shooting across open fields without concern of safety, property boundaries and the person's ability to shoot at distance causing more wounding of deer. Keep in mind that just because a vocal group wants something does not mean that most people want them.

Comment Received 11/13/2014 2:00:54 PM

Commenter Name Tim Owens

City Covington **County** FOUNTAIN **State** In

E-Mail Address tim.owens@sbcglobal.net

Comments I think it's a great idea We have been able to shoot long distance with the unlined for years

Comment Received 11/13/2014 2:21:17 PM

Commenter Name Michael Heady

City Indianapolis **County** MARION **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address mheady@gmail.com

Comments The rule allowing more firearm cartridges is just. Please remove the restriction of bullet diameter and maximum cartridge length.

Comment Received 11/13/2014 2:28:24 PM

Commenter Name Scott E.Webster

City Clinton **County** VERMILLION **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address mrbuckfly1@yahoo.com

Comments I support allowing high power rifle calibers in .243 or larger for deer hunting in Indiana.

Comment Received 11/13/2014 2:28:56 PM

Commenter Name Jonathan Nolting

City Elizabethtown **County** BARTHOLOMEW **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address jpnolting@gmail.com

Comments The words "before it's repeal" when referring to Comprehensive Lifetime Licenses leads one to believe the NRC is going to repeal the Lifetime License. I would recommend removing this as it would cause a considerable amount of confusion. When first reading this, I assumed it was language added in preparation for a repeal / revocation of all Lifetime Licenses issued by the INDNR; I can't imagine this would be a positive move in reduction of the deer herd in Indiana.

Comment Received 11/13/2014 2:31:03 PM

Commenter Name Dewayne Gilbert

City Martinsville **County** MORGAN **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address dgilbert@lilly.com

Comments Im in favor of allowing rifles to be used during the deer firearms season. With todays muzzleloaders they can reach out to 200 yards + anyway. Makes since to me to allow rifles.

Comment Received 11/13/2014 2:46:46 PM

Commenter Name Jeff Tibbot

City LaPorte **County** LAPORTE **State** IN

E-Mail Address jhtibbot@comcast.net

Comments I really see no need what so ever to allow centerfire high powered rifles to be allowed in gun season. With all the subdivision and homes pooping up in the what use to be rural areas, I see nothing but problems to develop. Ive been deer hunting for 28 years and havent never had a problem harvesting deer with either a slug gun or muzzleloader. It seems the DNR just wants it easier and more hunters in the woods to minimize the deer numbers more and more.... Look at the state of Michigan, no centefire rifles are allowed in the southern part of the state. Why? Because of the more dense population than the northern part. Once again, there is no reason to allow center fire rifles for deer hunting. I hope it doesnt take a stray bullet killing someone for the DNR to figure out this is just wrong and should of never been considered.

Comment Received 11/13/2014 2:48:55 PM

Commenter Name Keith Hazelwood

City Oldenburg **County** FRANKLIN **State** IN

Organization (optional) NA

E-Mail Address hazelwk66@gmail.com

Comments Open up the rifle season. The modern firearms today are no less dagerous than centerfire rifles. I do think the minimum caliber should be .24.

Comment Received 11/13/2014 2:50:33 PM

Commenter Name Joe Bell

City INDIANAPOLIS **County** MARION **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address josephdbell@hotmail.com

Comments I support the changes proposed to expand the allowed firearms calibers for deer hunting to include center fire rifles.

Comment Received 11/13/2014 3:13:44 PM

Commenter Name mark hobson

City bedford **County** LAWRENCE **State** indiana

E-Mail Address hskeeter1@gmail.com

Comments Hello there

I've been deer hunting for 30+ years now.I think a rifle season is a great ideal.but there needs to be a season for rifles after shotgun season.there are a lot people that go afield during shotgun season.including a lot of kids.if we had a rifle season after shotgun season it would be safer with less people afield.and also would require a purchaced rifle tag.with the state selling rifle tags would go along way in preserving our great outdoors.

Think you very much

Mark hobson

Comment Received 11/13/2014 3:24:39 PM

Commenter Name Richard Parker

City Morgantown **County** BROWN **State** IN

E-Mail Address horseradish0830@gmail.com

Comments More hunter education. Any caliber short of .50 BMG is ok by me. Serious penalties for hunting while drunk or stupid. Or both.

Comment Received 11/13/2014 3:39:39 PM

Commenter Name Todd Wallsmith

City Knox **County** STARKE **State** In

E-Mail Address twallsmith@nitline.net

Comments Don't allow the rifle cartridges. There are too many irresponsible hunters out there with shotguns already. I shudder to think of the damage a person could do with a 30-06, .308, .300 Win Mag or other similar cartridges in counties like St. Joseph, LaPorte, Marshall, Tippecanoe, Elkhart, or Allen.

Most hunters in Indiana hunt small woodlots, often less than 20 acres, and often in areas where there isn't really any terrain change. Please don't allow this.

Comment Received 11/13/2014 3:47:54 PM

Commenter Name mike hollenbeck

City nineveh **County** JOHNSON **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address wowghost08@yahoo.com

<p>Comments hunting</p> <p>Comment Received 11/13/2014 3:57:44 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Kevin Van Arsdale City Martinsville County MORGAN State Indiana E-Mail Address vanarsdale_kevin@yahoo.com Comments I'm all for proper caliber rifles during during general and late antlerless firearms deer seasons. About time! Pass it please!</p> <p>Thank you, Kevin Van Arsdale</p> <p>Comment Received 11/13/2014 4:07:13 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Jim Thompson City Springville County LAWRENCE State Indiana E-Mail Address j12d34t@comcast.net Comments I support allowing rifles with bullets .243 and larger for deer hunting.</p> <p>Comment Received 11/13/2014 4:12:07 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name brandon miller City ridgeville County JAY State indiana E-Mail Address millerbgm@gmail.com Comments No rule changes not safe in my area</p> <p>Comment Received 11/13/2014 4:19:00 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name R. Uhls City INDIANAPOLIS County MARION State Indiana E-Mail Address ruhls@comcast.net Comments I support the proposal to legalize rifles .243" and larger for deer.</p> <p>Comment Received 11/13/2014 4:44:40 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Daniel Hurst City Fort Wayne County ALLEN State Indiana E-Mail Address danimal260@gmail.com Comments On the proposed rule change to include other caliber rifles for hunting deer, I think allowing other calibers such as the .308 and 30/30 would be great. This allows hunters that are on a budget to still enjoy harvesting deer and not have to spend an obscene amounts of money trying to appease DNR regulations when it is a known fact that farmers with deprivation tags kill deer with "high power" rifles and some just bury the dead animal. No donation made to needy families or anything. Modern day muzzleloaders can hit an animal 200 yards or more as it is.</p> <p>Comment Received 11/13/2014 4:55:09 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Steve Reid Sr City Argos County MARSHALL State Indiana E-Mail Address skrsr1@yahoo.com Comments I commented in favor of the rifle cartridge proposal but the Amends 312 IAC 9-7-14 governing fish with no bag limit, possession limit, or size limit, as I understand it puts a limit on sunfish?</p> <p>Please no. Us old timers cannot fish as often as we would like due to gas costs and health and rarely do we get into the fish enough to catch over 25 but occasionally keeping 50 sure helps the budget. God Bless</p> <p>Comment Received 11/13/2014 5:10:45 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Chris Johnson City Evansville County VANDERBURGH State Indiana E-Mail Address cmjohnson601@msn.com Comments ALL for this!! Coming from another state where I have hunted deer all my life with .243 and up this is a normal law change. Never understood why Indiana law was the way it was.</p> <p>Comment Received 11/13/2014 5:29:50 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name daniel taylor City Elkhart County ELKHART State Indiana E-Mail Address buckhunter1028@yahoo.com Comments Im all for rifles being used because nobody allows anyone to hunt on there land so there is a very small window of opportunity to hunt and I need all the help I can get</p> <p>Comment Received 11/13/2014 5:51:45 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Ben Graber City Bunker Hill County MIAMI State Indiana</p>

<p>E-Mail Address bgrab1@yahoo.com Comments I'm agreed with proposal on rifle calibers for next year. Comment Received 11/13/2014 5:55:33 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Kevin burris City Edinburgh County JOHNSON State Indiana E-Mail Address Kevin_burris@ymail.com Comments . Comment Received 11/13/2014 5:59:37 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Byron Keith Clark City Patriot County SWITZERLAND State Indiana E-Mail Address kcdc123@embarqmail.com Comments I AM OPPOSED TO PERMITTING THE USE OF CENTERFIRE RIFLES FOR DEER HUNTING IN INDIANA. There are already way too many people around shooting rifles, compromising the safety of just going outside in my yard and I live in rural, hilly terrain. I remember when hand gun first became legal for deer hunting. You would not believe the number of greenhouse I encountered trespassing on our farm carrying a pistol. Most had no idea what they were doing, trying to hunt deer for the first time in their lives. They either figured it out after a couple of years or just went back to a shooting range, probably the latter. I would hate to see a bunch of new non-hunter gun nuts hit the woods with rifles! Comment Received 11/13/2014 6:04:06 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Byron Keith Clark City Patriot County SWITZERLAND State Indiana E-Mail Address kcdc123@embarqmail.com Comments I AM OPPOSED TO PERMITTING THE USE OF CENTERFIRE RIFLES FOR DEER HUNTING IN INDIANA. There are already way too many people around shooting rifles, compromising the safety of just going outside in my yard and I live in rural, hilly terrain. I remember when hand gun first became legal for deer hunting. You would not believe the number of greenhouse I encountered trespassing on our farm carrying a pistol. Most had no idea what they were doing, trying to hunt deer for the first time in their lives. They either figured it out after a couple of years or just went back to a shooting range, probably the latter. I would hate to see a bunch of new non-hunter gun nuts hit the woods with rifles! Comment Received 11/13/2014 6:04:44 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name dewayne lee City south bend County ST.JOSEPH State in E-Mail Address oldcaracres@aol.com Comments rifles should be allowed. most Indiana hunter's hunt from tree stands or raised platforms, and as such shots taken are mostly at a downward angle. with most hunting taking place along corn fields or woodlots I doubt many 300-400 yard shots would occur. Comment Received 11/13/2014 6:19:36 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Mark McMichael City Center Point County CLAY State Indiana Organization (optional) Buck Hill Farms E-Mail Address mpmcmichael@msn.com Comments I am not in favor of legalizing any more rifles for deer in Indiana. I feel that the options we have now are the best in the long run. If you weigh the safety factor into our sport for this state if any thing , make everyone take a Marksmanship Proficiency Test. That being said my biggest deer was killed with a 12 gauge 870 Remington when I had a Remington 700 chambered in .358 Hoosier home in the gun cabinet. At this point in time I have a .357 Maximum rifle and a .358 Hoosier rifle that I will hunt with this year also. We have had no accidents so far, but I just don't think Indiana is benefitted in any way by adding to the legal rifle chamberings. Comment Received 11/13/2014 6:27:57 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Dave wilson City Plainfield County HENDRICKS State Indiana E-Mail Address Rockred55@yahoo.com Comments No Comment Received 11/13/2014 6:32:14 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Braedon A Engle City Elizabethtown County BARTHOLOMEW State Indiana E-Mail Address braengle@uemail.iu.edu Comments I just want to say that I am for the rule being change to allow for rifle cartridges down to .243 caliber. I believe that Indiana has missed out of opportunities to host hunters from other states that would like to use rifles that are not currently legal in this state. Thus missing out on more revenue from sportsman. Please adopt this rule allowing .243 and up. Thanks Comment Received 11/13/2014 6:37:46 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Steven Brehob</p>

<p>City Morgantown County MORGAN State Indiana E-Mail Address tinabrehob@gmail.com Comments I fully support the proposed rule change to permit centerfire rifles firing a bullet of at least .243" in diameter and removing the maximum case length restriction. Current regulations have resulted in a rash of wildcat rifle cartridges to get around the rule, yet any centerfire rifle cartridge is currently legal if fired from a pistol. The inequity in this rule needs to be rectified and I applaud you for finally addressing the issue. Comment Received 11/13/2014 6:56:38 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Corey Bryant City Mooresville County MORGAN State Indiana E-Mail Address Recon33alpha@yahoo.com Comments I do not agree with legalizing rifles .243 and larger Comment Received 11/13/2014 6:58:29 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Lance Block City Lawrenceburg County DEARBORN State Indiana E-Mail Address lblock@fuse.net Comments I feel that more calibers (larger cartridges) should be allowed for deer hunting. However, I do not think rifles with large capacity magazines should be allowed. I think there should be a limit on the amount of rounds that can be used when deer hunting so that we don't have every hillbilly with an AR with a 30 round clip spraying the woods and fields with bullets. That would be too dangerous and could reduce the deer population too much. Maybe set a requirement that the rifle can only be bolt-action or lever action. Thanks. Comment Received 11/13/2014 7:18:56 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name maurice smith City french lick County ORANGE State in E-Mail Address smitty@bluemarble.net Comments not in favor Comment Received 11/13/2014 7:26:47 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name James Loftin City Marion County GRANT State Indiana Organization (optional) Marion Police E-Mail Address jloftin971@gmail.com Comments It is my opinion that the current rules and laws are adequate for Indiana Hunters to effectively harvest game. The 358 Hoosier series of cartridges are unique to Indiana and really effective. I am a strong supporter of the 2nd amendment however that being said I really don't see the need for cartridges like 338 lapua, 300 win mag, 50 bmg. I don't realish the thought of these rounds flying throught the woods or through my house. If this must happen please limit the case length to that of a 308 win. Comment Received 11/13/2014 7:31:16 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Alan Hannum City Heltonville County MONROE State IN - Indiana E-Mail Address dirt42@yahoo.com Comments I fully support this proposal on the High powered rifle for deer hunting. Comment Received 11/13/2014 7:36:57 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Ryan McDuffee City Springville County LAWRENCE State IN E-Mail Address ryan.mcduffee@gm.com Comments I agree with the new rules being proposed. Comment Received 11/13/2014 7:39:06 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Shawn Upchurch City Princeton County GIBSON State Indiana E-Mail Address shawncathy.upchurch@gmail.com Comments I am in favor of changing the deer hunting equipment rule to allow rifles firing a bullet greater than .243 inches. These cartridges are already allowable when used in a handgun or when hunting other species such as coyotes. Usage of these types of firearms will allow more practice by hunters and will result in more humane taking of game as the ammunition is more widely available and generates less recoil than a shotgun. There really is no good reason to no allow their use. Comment Received 11/13/2014 7:45:02 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Roy Overshiner City Salem County WASHINGTON State IN Organization (optional) Retired Police Officer E-Mail Address roberts_257@yahoo.com Comments I feel the latest deer rifle cartridge proposal is a great upgrade to the current rule. It will allow many common calibers to be used which have been excluded. As stated by others the use of such cartridges are of no more danger than</p>

other calibers already in use. Doing this will help hunters purchase and use rifles in calibers at an affordable price. The use of these guns will allow hunters a much more effective and efficient tool. I do agree with this change in the rule for deer rifles

Comment Received 11/13/2014 8:00:49 PM

Commenter Name Bill Burdine

City South Whitley **County** WHITLEY **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address btburdin@gmail.com

Comments I disagree with allowing high powered rifle rounds (.243 or larger)

Comment Received 11/13/2014 8:05:28 PM

Commenter Name Mike Clark

City Carmel **County** HAMILTON **State** IN

E-Mail Address cptmclark@aol.com

Comments I agree with the proposed change in equipment rules for deer hunting. As of now we have been put through a long time of buying expensive pistol cartridge rifles, upgrading to newly approved calibers, building wildcat rifles that equal or exceed the capabilities of most rifle calibers typically used for deer, at considerable expense.

Hunting with a rifle is hugely more satisfying to a sportsman than using a slug shooting shotgun, with it's accuracy development potential and hugely reduced cost of ammunition compared with the slugs for rifled shotgun barrels. If there is a safety issue that is real I would consider it. To me, the bullet or slug is going to come down somewhere and it is just as dangerous at 3/4 mile as it is at ten. Of course if the ammendment were to have difficulty getting passed for political reasons, I would offer to have it apply to south of Interstate 70 where the terrain is more steep. I don't think that's a real issue but rather a suggestion around a political logjam. Just my 2 cents worth. I already have a 358 Hoosier that will shoot as far and as hard as my preferred and factory available 308 or 30-06.

Thank you for considering my ideas. I hope this ammendment is passed as written.

Comment Received 11/13/2014 8:33:37 PM

Commenter Name tom kendall

City howe **County** LAGRANGE **State** in

E-Mail Address handgun357@yahoo.com

Comments Allowing the use of a .243 caliber rifle cartridge is a fantastic change proposal...! Thank you...!

Comment Received 11/13/2014 8:45:19 PM

Commenter Name Mark White

City West Lebanon **County** WARREN **State** Indiana

Organization (optional) Western Indiana Bowhunter

E-Mail Address bowhunter3014@att.net

Comments I appreciate the fact that you allow us hunters to comment about possible rule changes before they are voted on. I strongly disagree with allowing the use of rifles to hunt whitetail deer. Indiana is not a place to use high-powered rifles to hunt whitetails because of the dangers and safety issues that come along with them. Indiana is made up of so many small woodlots, fencerows, and pastures that are in very close proximity that there is a very real danger of wounding or killing another hunter. You can drive down the road in my county (Warren) and count hunters in their stands just off the road. This also puts people in their vehicles in danger as well. I bowhunt only for whitetails mainly because firearms hunting just isn't as challenging. I live to bowhunt, so I am not a big fan of using a firearm to hunt whitetails to begin with, but I realize it is a necessary evil to help keep the herd in check. I own my own hunting property and manage it heavily to help produce the biggest bucks by practicing strict QDM and also keeping the buck to doe ratio where it needs to be. If rifles are allowed, the mature whitetail buck population will gradually deteriorate over a few years until Indiana is no longer considered a great big buck state. I am proud of the progress that the DNR has made to help make Indiana the big buck producing state that it is today, but I fear that rifle hunting will have a huge negative impact that will be hard to correct. If the rule is passed, please consider doing what Illinois does and have two short firearm seasons instead of one long one. The first one could be in late November and the second one could be in December, this would allow more bucks, especially mature ones, to survive. This also allows for a fair compromise for those who are against the rule. Firearm hunters would still be able to use rifles, but bowhunters would still have the luxury of being able to have a chance at a mature buck because more would survive. I was a huge fan of the one-buck rule that was implemented several years ago, but the use of rifles would take a major step in the opposite direction. Thank you for your consideration. Sincerely, Mark White. I welcome any questions or comments that you might have. If you would like to contact me, my email is bowhunter3014@att.net. I was interviewed in the past for comments about the GiveINGame program as well as the CheckINGame program for the hunting and trapping guide because I use both every year. Again, thank you!

Comment Received 11/13/2014 9:26:02 PM

Commenter Name Justin Blomenberg

City Seymour **County** JACKSON **State** IN

E-Mail Address jblomenberg16@msn.com

Comments Pursuant to the updating of the code to allow calibers > .243 for rifles, I would like to see the code updated to also clarify the legal use of BATFE approved Short Barreled Rifles chambered in the appropriate rifle calibers. This would include legal SBRs (classified as pistols as currently defined in IC 35-47-1). Examples would be SBR's chambered in the popular 300AAC aka (300 Blackout), which would be a legal cartridge for rifles, and for handguns.

Comment Received 11/13/2014 9:47:02 PM

Commenter Name Andrew Wickham

City Westfield **County** HAMILTON **State** IN

E-Mail Address ahwathome@hotmail.com

Comments Regarding (LSA #14-453) Amends various rules within 312 IAC 9...

I am in favor of this rule change.

Comment Received 11/13/2014 9:50:28 PM

Commenter Name Joe Culbertson

City Russiaville **County** HOWARD **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address jdculb@hotmail.com

Comments I think rifles SHOULD be allowed. I see no reason not to. You can hunt fox,

coyotes and ground hogs with high power and no big deal. I see no problem with it. Other states allow it, and no problems with their system. I just

see that it should fall in with the firearms license, and not a specialty license.

either way, I have a lifetime license.

Comment Received 11/13/2014 10:40:26 PM

Commenter Name Randy Uerkwitz

City LAFAYETTE **County** TIPPECANOE **State** IN

E-Mail Address UERKIE@AOL.COM

Comments How about putting a limit on the number of bullets in the rifle to 3 rounds. If some one gets to excited about

what they are shooting they might not consider where the bullets are going.

Comment Received 11/13/2014 10:57:49 PM

Commenter Name jason stone

City granger **County** ST.JOSEPH **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address jstone@dlz.com

Comments I'm strongly in favor of the proposed changes regarding rifle cartridges that are legal to use for deer hunting.

Thanks for this proposal!

Comment Received 11/14/2014 7:31:41 AM

Commenter Name larry cochran

City martinsville **County** MORGAN **State** indiana

E-Mail Address larry.cochran@gmail.com

Comments I have had trouble with this site. I am trying to comment on the rifle proposal for deer. In my opinion we do not

need additional calibers for deer. I think it would be a major mistake and compromise the safety of hunters and non hunters

to allow high velocity rifles during deer season. I believe the existing rules that allow m's pistols, shotguns and pistol rounds

in rifles are adequate for indiana deer. I dread the thought of going out in the woods deer hunting knowing the local "rambo"

has his AR or SKS out there deer hunting. I am 70 years old and have never taken a deer out over 80 yards. Why do we

need this hi vel calibers. We have a gong at 300 meters at our gun club and I'd estimate 75% of the shooters can not hit the

gong at 300 meters and it is larger than kill area of a deer. Please do not permit this rule change.

Comment Received 11/14/2014 7:36:45 AM

Commenter Name Rod Hite

City Versailles **County** RIPLEY **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address rodhiteusmc@yahoo.com

Comments I would NOT support the expansion of rifles during the Indiana deer season. With the range of modern

muzzleloaders, slug guns, and some pistol cart rifles we have enough firearms to support Indiana gun season.

Comment Received 11/14/2014 7:47:13 AM

Commenter Name david dewitt

City indianapolis **County** MARION **State** indiana

E-Mail Address grizzlyman711@GMAIL.COM

Comments Rifles are fine to hunt with most hunters hunt from elevated stands witch eliminates long travel of projectiles.

Comment Received 11/14/2014 7:51:52 AM

Commenter Name gregg poe

City andrews **County** HUNTINGTON **State** indiana

E-Mail Address gregg@onlyinternet.net

Comments would like to see rifle made legal in Indiana,with cal.of 243 an larger.thanks Gregg poe

Comment Received 11/14/2014 8:25:01 AM

Commenter Name Rex James

City Kokomo **County** HOWARD **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address rex3006@comcast.net

Comments I am all for allowing rifles. Other states have higher populations and have had no trouble.

Comment Received 11/14/2014 8:25:26 AM

Commenter Name gregg poe
City andrews **County** HUNTINGTON **State** indiana
E-Mail Address gregg@onlyinternet.net
Comments would like Indiana to allow baiting of deer, ohio,michigan,kentucky you can bait an there has been no problem with deer health. most stores in Indiana that sell sporting good sell thebaiting supplies. most hunter use them.thanks Gregg poe
Comment Received 11/14/2014 8:44:04 AM

Commenter Name Keith Butt
City Terre Haute **County** VIGO **State** IN
E-Mail Address keithdbutt@gmail.com
Comments I agree with the addition of rifles of .243 and larger for deer hunting. I would say that a magazine capacity of five should included.
Comment Received 11/14/2014 9:48:23 AM

Commenter Name Jim Epple
City Gosport **County** MONROE **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address jimepple@yahoo.com
Comments Concur with proposed rule changes.
Comment Received 11/14/2014 10:45:13 AM

Commenter Name Paul McFeaters
City Loogootee **County** MARTIN **State** IN
E-Mail Address paul.mcfeaters@gmail.com
Comments I am in favor of expanding the selection of centerfire rifles allowed for deer hunting to those firing bullets with a caliber of .243 and greater.

I am in favor of halting the hunting of ruffed grouse.
Comment Received 11/14/2014 11:42:00 AM

Commenter Name Israel Meagher
City Bloomingdale **County** PARKE **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address israelmeagher@yahoo.com
Comments I agree with the portion of the law allowing rifles to shoot bullets 243 and larger and to upper limit on upper case length. History has proven that rifles of such calibers are not more dangerous to fellow hunters or the public and are in many cases more accurate allowing cleaner harvest of deer. Thank you for allowing a forum to hear public comments on proposed rule changes.
Comment Received 11/14/2014 11:54:59 AM

Commenter Name Norman Lay
City Vincennes **County** KNOX **State** IN
Organization (optional) none
E-Mail Address layn@sbcglobal.net
Comments I would be for use of a 30/30 caliber rifle
Comment Received 11/14/2014 12:46:14 PM

Commenter Name Patrick denham
City Churubusco **County** WHITLEY **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address Eaglefeather5@frontier.com
Comments As far as legalizing high powered rifles to hunt deer in the state of Indiana , it's wrong, to many housing addition constantly being put up, proper training not given to new individuals who enter hunting, to flat, but I will say if used in a big state park to thin herds and increase the distance you have to be off road wAy could be effective tool. Anyone wanting to use high powered rifle should have to pass a shooting test to make sure they can handle the firearm.
Comment Received 11/14/2014 1:43:22 PM

Commenter Name Nick Shinn
City Fishers **County** HAMILTON **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address nicholas_shinn@att.net
Comments I support the change to allow rifles!
Comment Received 11/14/2014 2:55:13 PM

Commenter Name gary potter
City gosport **County** OWEN **State** indiana
E-Mail Address potterfam2@yahoo.com
Comments i strongly support hunting with deer rifles!
Comment Received 11/14/2014 2:56:42 PM

Commenter Name Greg Dunn
City Birdseye **County** DUBOIS **State** Indiana

<p>E-Mail Address dunngr1972@gmail.com</p> <p>Comments I am in favor of these proposed changes. Specifically allowing for the use of centerfire rifles for hunting in Indiana</p> <p>Comment Received 11/14/2014 3:47:31 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Robert Cano</p> <p>City Evansville County VANDERBURGH State IN</p> <p>E-Mail Address Robert.Cano@cummins.com</p> <p>Comments Yes for high power rifles, but more safety orange regulation put in place. Every hunter must wear 2 pieces of safety orange when hunting with rifle.</p> <p>Comment Received 11/14/2014 5:06:49 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Drew Campbell</p> <p>City indianapolis County MARION State Indiana</p> <p>E-Mail Address bonecollector3995@gmail.com</p> <p>Comments I feel rifles should be allowed in Indiana due to the fact that people are modifying pistol caliber cartridges that have the ability to reach the same velocities and ranges as other modern day high pureed rifles. So the restriction is outdated at this point. Thank you for the consideration and I hope to see the upcoming change in restrictions.</p> <p>Comment Received 11/14/2014 5:54:55 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Dan Haire</p> <p>City Churubusco County ALLEN State IN</p> <p>E-Mail Address foamkiller1@gmail.com</p> <p>Comments High powers in Indiana...really? If the average hunter had more acreage to hunt it might make sense but with 3 - 4 people on every little chunk of cover it is stupid. Northern Indiana is too flat and too open for long range guns.</p> <p>Comment Received 11/14/2014 7:45:49 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name David Delaney</p> <p>City indianapolis County MARION State indiana</p> <p>E-Mail Address eelriver50@yahoo.com</p> <p>Comments The continued expansion of rifles for use for deer hunting and other forms of hunting in Indiana is both unneeded and unwarranted. Much of Indiana is privately held in small parcels and often with level topography. Expansion of the range of firearms creates an unnecessary risk that projectiles will travel off and outside the specific property that hunters are using, with permission, and onto properties that hunters don't have permission to be and may be unaware of the property specifics and related dangers that could be created. This is bad policy and could create unnecessary risk to surrounding landowners and could lead to legislation not favorable to hunters such as evidenced in other states.</p> <p>Comment Received 11/14/2014 8:42:00 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Dennis Tomlinson</p> <p>City Churubusco County ALLEN State Indiana</p> <p>E-Mail Address dtomlinson2@yahoo.com</p> <p>Comments The rules that we have are good enough. There are so many hunters that are not skilled enough to be able to use a center fire rifle for hunting big game.</p> <p>Comment Received 11/14/2014 9:00:35 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Josh Hurley</p> <p>City indianapolis County MARION State IN</p> <p>E-Mail Address jrayhurley@hotmail.com</p> <p>Comments Wish a 243 was allowed</p> <p>Comment Received 11/14/2014 9:41:53 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Owen Hobbs</p> <p>City Orleans County LAWRENCE State Indiana</p> <p>E-Mail Address indyvol@gmail.com</p> <p>Comments I would like to state my support for the proposed caliber changes for hunting deer. When I grew up in Tennessee, we were allowed to hunt with almost any caliber size (there may have been a minimum back then but I understand there isn't now) and I do not recall there ever being a widespread or chronic issue because of it.</p> <p>Please move to allow more choices in ammunition and firearms for hunters wanting to take deer.</p> <p>Thanks.</p> <p>Owen Hobbs</p> <p>Orleans, IN</p> <p>Comment Received 11/14/2014 10:27:32 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Jake Smith</p> <p>City Nineveh County JOHNSON State IN</p> <p>E-Mail Address Jacobglennsmith@yahoo.com</p>

<p>Comments make rifle calibers legal for deer!!!</p> <p>Comment Received 11/14/2014 10:47:14 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Mike Atwood City Rosedale County PARKE State Indiana E-Mail Address remauto1187@yahoo.com Comments I fully support this rule change. Data has shown time and time again that rifle cartridges are no more prone to strike far away unintended target than deer slugs are. It would be nice to use common, easily reloadable cartridges such as the 30-30, .35Rem, .308 and 30-06 rounds. I believe you will see better numbers of harvest and less reports of wounded unrecovered deer. Comment Received 11/14/2014 11:32:58 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Jason Gilmour City Oakland County PIKE State Indiana E-Mail Address jbgilmour06@frontier.com Comments Please do not make any additional changes to the firearms that can be utilized for deer. There is no need for additional calibers to harvest deer. The problem that I see that has not been addressed is magazine capacity and this is my biggest concern. If you feel that deer are killed better by a centerfire rifle cartridge as opposed to what is currently allowed then at least place a restriction on using semi automatic weapons or limit magazine capacity to 3. Thank you. Comment Received 11/15/2014 10:09:58 AM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Michael felton City Muncie County DELAWARE State Indiana E-Mail Address Michaelfelton@netzero.com Comments Restrict the use of rifles as legal deer hunting equipment to only the most rural, rugged, least populated counties in the state (create a rifle-zone). Comment Received 11/15/2014 11:32:42 AM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Michael Felton City Muncie County DELAWARE State IN E-Mail Address Michaelfelton@netzero.com Comments Restrict any use of rifles as legal deer hunting equipment to only the most rural, rugged, least-populated counties. Comment Received 11/15/2014 11:38:42 AM</p>
<p>Commenter Name William Ray Hall City Newberry County GREENE State Indiana E-Mail Address willhall12@yahoo.com Comments As I set here the first day of gun season I have had all day to think about this. It is my feeling we should let more rifle cal.be legal .The thing that gets me more than rifles being legal is the number of rounds in any weapon shotgun , rifle ,pistol . Today I listen to shots being fired just close to myself there were 7 five round blast 2 six round blast and 2 seven round burst very few were just 1 shot. I am for rifle cal. being made legal down to .243 this do something about how many rounds you can carry in your firearms when hunting, at home 30 round mag are fine just not for hunting ,just the way this old man feels . Comment Received 11/15/2014 7:07:42 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Bill Knapp City kendallville County NOBLE State Indiana E-Mail Address bknapp40@gmail.com Comments I absolutely support the proposed rule changes,especially legalizing rifles for deer hunting. I will say that some 22 caliber centerfires such as. 22-250 should be included. Comment Received 11/15/2014 8:37:23 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Mike Ardhuermly City Churubusco County WHITLEY State Indiana E-Mail Address mmardhuer@aol.com Comments 312 IAC 9-7-10 Sunfish-- Indiana lakes do not have a shortage of sunfish. The fishing is excellent and has been for many years. Twenty five sunfish per day is not required as the population of sunfish is Indiana lakes is perfect. Leave alone what has worked for many years. Also the state will lose revenue on the sale of bait and tackle and the mom and pop bait stores will lose revenue. If you can only catch 25 sunfish that means less bait and less tackle sold. End result is government affecting peoples business and lively hood. Keep it just like it is, NO LIMIT ON SUNFISH!!!!!! 312 IAC 9-3-3 ---The use of high powered center fire rifles in Indiana is not needed. It would be dangerous because of population densities. I think we kill more than enough deer without adding another method that would cross the line on public safety. Do not pass this insane rule. Comment Received 11/16/2014 7:28:44 AM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Brandon Jones</p>

City Indianapolis County MARION State Indiana

E-Mail Address bjoneszero@yahoo.com

Comments I fully support this rule change. Data has shown time and time again that rifle cartridges are no more prone to strike far away unintended target than deer slugs are. It would be nice to use common, easily reloadable cartridges such as the 30-30, .35Rem, .308 and 30-06 rounds. I believe you will see better numbers of harvest and less reports of wounded unrecovered deer.

Comment Received 11/16/2014 8:35:32 AM

Commenter Name Charles Roche

City Vincennes County KNOX State Indiana

E-Mail Address paintppa1@gmail.com

Comments I have been advised that the Department is proposing the allowance of high powered rifles for us during deer season. In my opinion this would be a mistake for several reasons.

First, Indiana deer hunting areas are frequently in or near populated areas. The possibility of an errant shot striking occupied property is much higher than in such states as Michigan, which allows for high power rifles.

States that do allow for high power rifles are generally hilly in topography which acts against an errant shot striking occupied property or human or domestic animals.

Indiana already allows for a plethora hunting weapons for the taking of deer. There isn't, in my opinion, any need for expansion that base.

I live on a 150 farm and really don't want to have to worry about a shot from a .270, 30/30, .308, or similar high power gun striking my property. As a long time member of the NRA, NWTF, D.U., and as someone who has hunted in Indiana for over 65 years, I urge you not to expand the number of allowable firearms for the taking deer.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Comment Received 11/16/2014 2:06:12 PM

Commenter Name Travis strickland

City Oakland city County GIBSON State Indiana

E-Mail Address tstrickland@farbestfoods.com

Comments Rifles shouldn't be allow. Indiana isn't a rural state anymore. Accidents can and well happen.

Comment Received 11/16/2014 3:33:13 PM

Commenter Name Charles West

City Georgetown County FLOYD State Indiana

E-Mail Address Cmwest2006@insightbb.com

Comments I am for the new weapons change to allow rifles

Comment Received 11/16/2014 6:18:59 PM

Commenter Name James Downey

City Greenwood County JOHNSON State IN

E-Mail Address jldowneyiii@hotmail.com

Comments I believe these rule changes are long over due. It's time for Indiana to end the prohibition on high powered rifle loads.

Comment Received 11/16/2014 7:36:23 PM

Commenter Name Mark Middleton

City Sullivan County SULLIVAN State Indiana

E-Mail Address mmiddleton944@comcast.net

Comments I am against allowing the proposed changes to allow rifle calibers .243 and larger. Having already experienced problems with hunters shooting in my direction when when only 75 yards away from me, I cringe thinking that those inconsiderate, unsafe and long-range hunter wantabe's will now be spraying projectiles from 200 yards.

Comment Received 11/16/2014 8:15:12 PM

Commenter Name H. Allen Pruett

City Indianapolis County MARION State Indiana

E-Mail Address allen.pruett74@gmail.com

Comments I support the addition of rifle to the list of legally usable hunting tools.

Comment Received 11/16/2014 11:37:04 PM

Commenter Name Eric Pettit

City North Vernon County JENNINGS State Indiana

E-Mail Address ericpettit30@hotmail.com

Comments I think that changing the firearms to center fire .243 and over is long over due. I also think that Madison should be placed back on the deer reduction zone list (Urban Zone)

Comment Received 11/17/2014 7:25:51 AM

Commenter Name Douglas Girt

City Markleville **County** MADISON **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address douglasgirt@gmail.com

Comments I would keep the cartridge length in the 308 family. These guns are more than enough for hunting in Indiana and ammo is cheap and just about anyone can afford these guns. We don't need guy's out there with 300 ultramags to shoot deer.

Comment Received 11/17/2014 7:41:31 AM

Commenter Name Daniel Rowe

City Carmel **County** HAMILTON **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address danielrowe@earthlink.net

Comments Dear NRC,

Would like to just voice my support for the proposed change to allow a larger range of rifles to be used in Indiana. I have hunted many of our neighboring states with similar terrain to Indiana where they allow the use of rifles and think it would be great to see here in Indiana for deer. Thanks

Daniel

Comment Received 11/17/2014 9:08:01 AM

Commenter Name John Heingartner

City Fort Wayne **County** ALLEN **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address bowhunterjohn63@yahoo.com

Comments I have mixed feelings about this new purposed gun season law. With the populated areas in which a lot of us hunt I feel allowing guns with 700 yard shooting abilities and far longer range we are asking for trouble. It would be great to be able to take out a rifle and shoot 300 plus yards. However don't we get enough wounded unrecovered deer from gun season ?

I feel a better solution would be to go back to the old rules. Eliminate the 358 Hoosier round that has brought this purposed law around. A mere change in not only the length of cartridge but diameter limitations would eliminate this problem.

To be honest I'd love to see gun/firearm season moved to October 1st through the 21st. Then bow season start through the end of November. Then December 1st through the 15th muzzleloader only season. Then December 15th through January 31st late bow

I would take crossbow out of the long bow season and add it to the last week of firearm and the first week of bow, seeing as it is a cross between a gun and bow.

The way it is now there is no true bow season by allowing crossbows all season long.

Late antlerless, please do AWAY with it.. too many shed bucks are killed and pregnant doe.

Thanks for your time

Cordially

John HEingartner

Comment Received 11/17/2014 9:55:19 AM

Commenter Name Jim Butler

City Springville **County** LAWRENCE **State** IN

E-Mail Address jwbhm@yahoo.com

Comments With current ballistics of already legal wildcat cartridges and modern muzzloading, all other rifles should be legal. Why can one not use 30/30 pushing projectile at around 2400ft/s, and someone can use a wildcat cartridge pushing a 30 some caliber projectile at or near 2600 ft/s. Why can my neighbor use a 30-06 for coyotes and my teenage daughter cannot use a .243 for deer. Other states that have allowed these have not seen an increase in accidents. I am in favor of exanding the legal rifle cartridges for deer hunting.

Comment Received 11/17/2014 10:35:52 AM

Commenter Name Ted McClintic

City Indianapolis **County** MARION **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address tmcclintic@comcast.net

Comments I am writing in favor of the rifle proposal. I am somewhat of a practical expert with 30 years hunting experience.

I own and/or lease/manage 640 acres of private land in Southern Indiana and have personally harvested 85 deer and been around hundreds of other deer harvested with multiple weapon types. I see only positives by adding rifles .243 and up to the list of legal weapons in Indiana for deer hunting in the general firearm season. Personally, we will have more hunters on our land and will take more deer because my wife and daughters, children will have a better/more hunting options with rifles due to: 1) we can find a rifle caliber option that has lower recoil than a slug or muzzle loader 2) a rifle option that shoots more accurately than a slug or muzzleloader 3) Rifles are easier to load than a muzzleloader 4) Rifles are easier to clean than a muzzleloader 5) Rifles not as weather sensitive as a muzzleloader. Currently within the limits of the Pistol Cartridge Rule, we have been using rifles for the past couple years and have taken numerous deer without hearing of any rifle/caliber related incident. I have not heard a logical/ fact based argument that supports that rifles are more dangerous and know of no data from other rifle legal states that supports such either. Every firearm, no matter the type, can be dangerous if used recklessly. I believe adding rifles to the general firearm deer season will open up opportunities for more people to hunt and harvest deer in Indiana without creating a situation that is more dangerous to hunt. I am around dozens of ethical, responsible hunters each year and I know not one person who does not think the Rifle Proposal will help us harvest more deer and create more opportunities for more hunters.

Comment Received 11/17/2014 10:38:48 AM

Commenter Name Bill Green

City Pendleton **County** MADISON **State** IN

E-Mail Address bill.green@molycorp.com

Comments I see no problems with the proposed rule changes.

Comment Received 11/17/2014 11:07:57 AM

Commenter Name natalie gary

City bedford **County** LAWRENCE **State** indiana

E-Mail Address natim7974@gmail.com

Comments I believe with proper gun safety and ethics that law abiding citizens should ne able to use them.....pmease stop penalizing those of us that follow the laws because the ones that dont never will...this only affects us and doesnt affect them in the least.

Comment Received 11/17/2014 11:57:47 AM

Commenter Name Steven Nicholas

City Bedford **County** LAWRENCE **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address Slnichjr2505@gmail.com

Comments A gun is a gun! If properly trained they all are respected and none more dangerous than the other. Would personally love to see all high powered legalized . As an instructor for Hunters Safety can say that our kids are most definitely trained and responsible

Comment Received 11/17/2014 12:24:53 PM

Commenter Name arthur c brown

City rising sun **County** SWITZERLAND **State** Indiana

Organization (optional) n/a

E-Mail Address acbrown@orvcomm.com

Comments concerning the HP rifle, I have no problem with allowing them "IF" limited to a 5 round max. magazine. I see no need nor do I want to see or hear so called hunters firing off 10,20 or 30 rounds at a deer. All people I've talked with agree with a 5 rounds maximum.

Comment Received 11/17/2014 12:31:58 PM

Commenter Name Brad Rumph

City Vallonia **County** JACKSON **State** IN

E-Mail Address brumph@heartlandmeds.com

Comments Ok with 30-30 but using bigger rifles in Indiana for deer hunting is ridiculous. Too dangerous. We already have enough ways to hunt deer don't need this. Did not ask for it don't want it.

Comment Received 11/17/2014 5:01:07 PM

Commenter Name Neal McFeters

City Fort Wayne **County** ALLEN **State** IN

E-Mail Address nmcfeters@frontier.com

Comments I fully support the move to allow rifle hunting during deer season. The increased accuracy and effectiveness of modern rifle ammunition would assure less wounded and lost deer.

Comment Received 11/17/2014 8:10:51 PM

Commenter Name Cody Ferguson

City Fairland **County** SHELBY **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address cfergus@yahoo.com

Comments For 312 IAC 9-3-3 Equipment for deer hunting, I agree with the propsoed changes to allow 28 gauge and allow bullets in size equal to .243 and greater for deer hunting. Other states around us like Kentucky and Pennsylvania allow the calibers and I have yet to read about an extreme amount of hutning accidents related to calibers. I currently own a TC Omega muzzleloader and it will shoot just as far as any of the proposed round. I purchased the Deer Bundle the last two

years and was unable to take a deer so it is not as if all of us hunters are killing masses of deer. I think it is a positive change and would keep hunters interested by giving them more options for their hunt.

Comment Received 11/18/2014 8:57:38 AM

Commenter Name Kyle Oehler

City Lawrenceburg **County** DEARBORN **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address keoehler@gmail.com

Comments Hello. I wrote to the IN DNR last week in support of changing the regulations with regard to the use of the 30-30 lever action while deer hunting. I was advised to comment on this rule. Please note that I am in favor of changing the regulations to include the use of the 30-30 firearm while deer hunting.

Comment Received 11/18/2014 2:25:47 PM

Commenter Name Greg Eley

City Marion **County** GRANT **State** in

E-Mail Address eleyhunt@gmail.com

Comments 312 IAC 9-3-3 Equipment for deer hunting - I am not in favor of the proposed rule for expanding laws to allow any additional firearms/rifles beyond what is already permitted. I believe it is unsafe for the following reasons:

A lot of Indiana is flat farm country and high power rifle bullets can travel a long way.

certain types of high power rifles are permitted under current rules but they are not readily available, most if not all are custom made. This rule would greatly increase the # of hunters out there using a high power rifle to hunt deer.

there is no need to expand weapons allowed, deer herd population is going down and will continue to do so for the foreseeable future as long as current limits are in effect

there are unsafe hunters out there that should not be allowed to hunt with archery equipment, let alone high power rifles; the last thing we need to do is give them firearm that will shoot a projectile 3000+ fps

Comment Received 11/18/2014 2:30:34 PM

Commenter Name Dennis Patterson

City Franklin **County** JOHNSON **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address denlu@embarqmail.com

Comments 312 IAC 9-3-3

I support the proposed changes.

Comment Received 11/18/2014 7:00:16 PM

Commenter Name steve bowman

City indianapolis **County** MARION **State** indiana

E-Mail Address sabowman@sbcglobal.net

Comments I am in support of the rifle proposal that includes all bullet diameters from .243 and up with no case length clause deer hunting. I see no safety concerns that aren't already there with the current firearms regs. I've been hunting deer in Indiana since 1976, a lifelong resident, and have a wildlife biology degree from Purdue.

Comment Received 11/18/2014 7:08:45 PM

Commenter Name chris marti

City marengo **County** CRAWFORD **State** indiana

E-Mail Address archeryman53@gmail.com

Comments I see no reason to ever allow high powered rifles for hunting deer in indiana. The state is over crowded now. we have breaking harvest records now without them. most terrain in southern part of the state only allows shots up to 75/80 yards unless hunting big fields. what we need is an earn a buck program and a shorter gun season.

Comment Received 11/18/2014 9:41:05 PM

Commenter Name chris marti

City marengo **County** CRAWFORD **State** indiana

E-Mail Address archeryman53@gmail.com

Comments I see no reason to ever allow high powered rifles for hunting deer in indiana. The state is over crowded now. we have breaking harvest records now without them. most terrain in southern part of the state only allows shots up to 75/80 yards unless hunting big fields. what we need is an earn a buck program and a shorter gun season.

Comment Received 11/18/2014 9:43:08 PM

Commenter Name Bill Dailey

City Noblesville **County** HAMILTON **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address billdaileyiii@yahoo.com

Comments Please allow high powered rifles for deer hunting in Indiana. Firearm hunters in Indiana get only 16 days to hunt deer. We have to do this in one of the nastiest months of the year. Bow hunters get over 3 months to hunt, gun hunters are lucky to get a week with the unpredictable weather in November. Allowing high powered rifles will help gun hunters maximize their deer hunting opportunities by making longer shots more accurate and allowing for a more enjoyable experience.

Comment Received 11/19/2014 11:50:45 AM

Commenter Name Donald Campbell

City Albion **County** NOBLE **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address d.campbell@silganplastics.com

Comments Adding larger rifles to deer hunting will make it unsafe for other hunters, livestock, buildings, people in general. Adopting this change is not necessary. We do not need to hunt with elephant guns.

Indiana is to populated to use high powered rifles. A hunter could shoot a deer and two or three people in the next mile if the bullet passes through the deer. If they miss and have no backstop the bullets could travel for two miles.

If you have the rifle with the range of a high powered rifle some will tend to try those long shots without thinking what happens to the bullet if they miss.

Indiana is not like the other states with big wooded areas and mountains for backstops, except some southern counties.

Indiana is a farming state with large open fields and flat land.

It would become unsafe to sit in the woods for fear of bullets from a mile away flying past you. There was talk of a muzzleloader being a 500 yard rifle, who in their right mind would shoot at a deer 5 football fields away hoping to hit a target the size of a deer. At that distance it would be like shooting a mouse at 50 yards, you can see it but you cannot pick a spot to hit it. People would be shooting rainbow shot hoping to connect. Some hunters would shoot follow up shots not knowing what was beyond their shot.

Buck Fever affects us all.

What ever you decide I'm buying more orange.

Thank You.

My response for this bill would be to deny the rule change.

Thank you.

Donald E. Campbell

260-248-1408

Comment Received 11/19/2014 3:18:34 PM

Commenter Name Nick Fueger

City Boonville **County** SPENCER **State** IN - Indiana

E-Mail Address nfueger@gmail.com

Comments Hello,

I am wanting to comment on the new amendments that are supposed to be made for deer hunting. In particular with regards to rule 312 IAC 9-3-3 subsection (d)(4) in regards to Equipment Used for deer.

The new proposal shows that it will allow rifles use a bullet bigger than .243. I believe this is a terrible decision in any manner it is proposed. I see no reason or "advantages" of implementing a rifle season for Indiana deer hunting. I am a landowner and an avid hunter. I manage my property extensively on a yearly basis in order to harvest mature deer of both sexes. I find that a muzzleloader or shotgun is more than capable of harvesting any deer I decide to take. On my property I could shoot effectively to 200-250 yards, which I am fully capable of doing with a muzzleloader. I feel that this would be the maximum effective range I would have available to shoot and would be the maximum distance I would feel comfortable in making an ethical kill. This is not true of much of the property surrounding me where shots would be limited to <150 yards.

As a mentioned I see there are no "advantages" of implementing rifle season. On the contrary I will list the items I see as "disadvantages".

1) The effective range of a rifle is much greater causing more dangerous situations when surrounding properties are occupied by large numbers of hunters.

2) Believe there will be less ethical shots taken on deer. From my personal experience, most surrounding hunters are not capable of making an effective kill shot on a deer that is generally within the effective range of a shotgun or muzzleloader. Generally there are numerous shots taken to harvest one animal. I do not feel a rifle will increase the odds or the effectiveness of the shooter. I believe this will only magnify most hunters inability to practice good shooting and effectively harvest an animal. This will lead to more deer being wounded at longer ranges because the equipment used gives them a false sense of ability.

3) Going off of my second point, range will not be the only cause for more unethical shots taken. A shotgun will penetrate brush much more effectively than a rifle bullet. With the decrease in mass of a rifle bullet, the same shots taken in moderate brush, will result in more wounded animals.

Rifles will carry much further distances on shots that are off target. Hopefully this will not result in another hunter's injury or death but becomes much more of a reality.

These are the true concerns of a law-abiding, land-owning, resident of the great state of Indiana. I would ask whomever that has the ability to highly reconsider this change. Our sport is great the way it is without implementation of new rules that are highly unnecessary.

Thank you, Nick

Comment Received 11/19/2014 4:59:40 PM

Commenter Name Nick Fueger

City Boonville **County** SPENCER **State** IN - Indiana

E-Mail Address nfueger@gmail.com

Comments Hello,

I am wanting to comment on the new amendments that are supposed to be made for deer hunting. In particular with regards to rule 312 IAC 9-3-3 subsection (d)(4) in regards to Equipment Used for deer.

The new proposal shows that it will allow rifles use a bullet bigger than .243. I believe this is a terrible decision in any manner it is proposed. I see no reason or "advantages" of implementing a rifle season for Indiana deer hunting. I am a landowner and an avid hunter. I manage my property extensively on a yearly basis in order to harvest mature deer of both sexes. I find that a muzzleloader or shotgun is more than capable of harvesting any deer I decide to take. On my property I could shoot effectively to 200-250 yards, which I am fully capable of doing with a muzzleloader. I feel that this would be the maximum effective range I would have available to shoot and would be the maximum distance I would feel comfortable in making an ethical kill. This is not true of much of the property surrounding me where shots would be limited to <150 yards.

As a mentioned I see there are no "advantages" of implementing rifle season. On the contrary I will list the items I see as "disadvantages".

- 1) The effective range of a rifle is much greater causing more dangerous situations when surrounding properties are occupied by large numbers of hunters.
- 2) Believe there will be less ethical shots taken on deer. From my personal experience, most surrounding hunters are not capable of making an effective kill shot on a deer that is generally within the effective range of a shotgun or muzzleloader. Generally there are numerous shots taken to harvest one animal. I do not feel a rifle will increase the odds or the effectiveness of the shooter. I believe this will only magnify most hunters inability to practice good shooting and effectively harvest an animal. This will lead to more deer being wounded at longer ranges because the equipment used gives them a false sense of ability.
- 3) Going off of my second point, range will not be the only cause for more unethical shots taken. A shotgun will penetrate brush much more effectively than a rifle bullet. With the decrease in mass of a rifle bullet, the same shots taken in moderate brush, will result in more wounded animals.

Rifles will carry much further distances on shots that are off target. Hopefully this will not result in another hunter's injury or death but becomes much more of a reality.

These are the true concerns of a law-abiding, land-owning, resident of the great state of Indiana. I would ask whomever that has the ability to highly reconsider this change. Our sport is great the way it is without implementation of new rules that are highly unnecessary.

Thank you, Nick

Comment Received 11/19/2014 5:06:00 PM

Commenter Name Andrew Thomas

City Kentland **County** NEWTON **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address mxzusa@yahoo.com

Comments 312 IAC 9-3-3 Equipment for deer hunting

Authority: IC 14-10-2-4; IC 14-22-2-6

Affected: IC 14-22; IC 35-47-2

section 4 Rifle specifications:

Need to add a bullet weight minimum of 100 grains to the minimum size of bullet .243

Comment Received 11/19/2014 9:00:48 PM

Commenter Name Jason Williams

City Indianapolis **County** MARION **State** IN

E-Mail Address willyjaybob@gmail.com

Comments Yes, but no just any round. Nothing that will go over 400--500 yard max.

Comment Received 11/19/2014 9:02:05 PM

Commenter Name Roger R Rothhaar

City Reelsville **County** PUTNAM **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address ryanrothhaar@yahoo.com

Comments regarding proposed change to rifle cartridges allowed for deer hunting : as a lifetime license holder, and

dedicated deer hunter, and taxpayer to the state of Indiana, I am IN COMPLETE OPPOSITION to the proposed rule change for several reasons. 1. Most of Indiana is more densely populated and of different terrain (flatter) than the nearby states that allow high-powered rifles for deer hunting. There is a MUCH GREATER safety issue involved with the use of these rifles in Indiana for deer than in the neighboring states. In addition to this issue, Indiana hunters are used to the relatively shorter range shotgun slugs and muzzle loading rifles and may not appreciate the added range and safety concerns. The Indiana DNR takes onto itself the safety issue, liability, and blame for any injuries this rule change would cause. 2. Deer in Indiana are already on a declining population trend (as DNR information communicates) - added "opportunity" (ie higher deer kill) is not warranted at this time. Inclusion of centerfire rifles will only increase deer kill onto an already declining population. 3. Where will inclusion of more and more efficient ways to kill deer end? The line needs to be drawn somewhere and the DNR has already allowed inclusion of crossbows and PCR's into Indiana's deer season...why are high-powered rifles needed?

I would welcome a response from a DNR employee - (which, by the way, my license dollars and taxes pay the wages of) - at my email address - ryanrothhaar@yahoo.com.

Roger R Rothhaar - a concerned Indiana deer hunter and conservationist...concerned about the direction of the deer management of my state....

Comment Received 11/20/2014 7:50:22 AM

Commenter Name JIM TUSSEY

City CONNERSVILLE **County** FAYETTE **State** INDIANA

E-Mail Address tusseyjd@yahoo.com

Comments THE RULE OF OPENING THE RIFLE SEASON IS A VERY BAD IDEA I WAS HUNTING OPENING DAY THERE WAS 7 PEOPLE IN A 60 ACRE SECTION SHOOTING ALOT THIS IS GOING TO BE BAD INDIANA IS TO FLAT TO MANY HOUSES AROUND THEY NEED TO START PUTTING PLUGS IN GUN GUYS SHOOTING AT DEER ON THE RUN IF LAW PASSES THE WAY IT IS YOU ARE OPENING IT FOR AR RIFLES AND SKS VERY BAD THANK YOU HOPE THEY DO THE RIGHT THING

Comment Received 11/20/2014 11:08:33 AM

Commenter Name Lincoln Bates

City Bluffton **County** WELLS **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address ihunt2liv@yahoo.com

Comments Please ammend the new proposed deer rifle changes to include magazine capacity restrictions or eliminate the use of semiautomatic rifles entirely. High capacity magazines and the rifles that use them would propose a significant safety risk to hunters and the public. Thank you

Comment Received 11/20/2014 11:16:17 AM

Commenter Name Adam Gettelfinger

City Sellersburg **County** CLARK **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address ajgxu@yahoo.com

Comments I think Indiana should immediately allow rifles over .243" for deer hunting.

Rifles are, generally speaking, more precise than shotguns, and they will allow hunters to make cleaner kills with less effort. This is both more humane and more effective.

Since sound suppressors are legal to hunt with in Indiana, allowing more rifles to hunt can help preserve sportsmen's hearing as well as reduce noise pollution and minimize impact on the surrounding communities.

Indiana's current rules surrounding which rifles may be used is, at best, arbitrary and capricious. Clear rules for rifle hunting (i.e. larger than .243) will help reduce confusion and allow sportsmen to clearly participate without undue anxiety as to whether they are following or breaking the law.

The influx of pistol arm braces fired from the shoulder – as lawfully allowed under BAFTE guidance – has effectively invalidated Indiana's current rules process for those hunting with modern style pistols, as a caliber that's allowed in pistol but not rifle can be effectively used as a rifle.

By expanding the law to allow rifles to hunt, this will allow broader access to hunting deer with a larger population of sportsman. Deer hunters have been decreasing in numbers over the years, and the effect of lessened population control is readily apparent to anyone who sees the damage caused by deer overpopulation affecting crops, landscaping, and animal/vehicle collisions.

I wholeheartedly and fully support the use of rifles for deer hunting, as many other states allow, and feel this will add an

exciting and new challenge for Indiana's hunters with passage of this ruling.

Respectfully,
Adam Gettelfinger

Comment Received 11/20/2014 3:25:39 PM

Commenter Name Sherry Weir
City Clarksville **County** CLARK **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address taroshy@cs.com

Comments no need for hi powered rifles. Why is the change not showing the type of rifles included, it includes all hi powered rifles Seems like someone in DNR has an agenda to open up weapons use over the past few years. Indiana is not like Michigan/Kentucky much less remote areas and more population density around hunting areas. I have kids hunting in small woodlots and do not want to see some people shooting across fields at 500 yards thinking they can hit or wound a deer and raising the risk levels over what we have not. For what reason is it necessary

Comment Received 11/20/2014 3:28:00 PM

Commenter Name Adam Gettelfinger
City Sellersburg **County** CLARK **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address ajgxu@yahoo.com

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I wholeheartedly and fully support the use of rifles for deer hunting, as many other states allow, and feel this will add an exciting and new challenge for Indiana's hunters with passage of this ruling.

Additionally, I do not think a barrel length restriction is judicious, as several rifle offerings in lengths under 16" (including some under 10") have been shown in other states to be more than adequate to humanely kill deer. Some calibers such as 300 AAC Blackout have ethically killed deer with barrels 8" long or less.

Respectfully,
Adam Gettelfinger

Comment Received 11/20/2014 3:30:16 PM

Commenter Name Dustin Bantz
City Portland **County** JAY **State** IN
E-Mail Address dustin@1shotsports.com

Comments Let me first say that, as a licensed gun dealer in Indiana, I would benefit greatly from this proposal being passed. New rifle sales would go through the roof next year. However, I must write to you detailing why I disagree greatly with this proposal and the lack of common sense that comes along with it. For several years it was preached that Indiana was simply too populated a state to use rifles but the use of these same high powered cartridges was allowed in pistols. Keep in mind that these pistols were firing the same high power cartridges as the big game rifles out of 12-15" barrels vs the big game rifles' 16-24" barrels. You don't have to be a rocket scientist to figure out that the velocity difference between the two (and terminal performance) is negligible. Then the DNR decided we could use some rifles. First it was anything with a bullet diameter .357" or larger with an empty case length of 1.16"-1.625". Then the maximum limit was changed to 1.8". All the while the pistol regulations remained at .243" or larger and an empty case length of 1.16" or longer. As you can see this has made these regulations quite confusing for most. I cannot tell you how many times I have explained these regulations

and changes to customers that have visited my shop. Most people seem thoroughly confused. And now the DNR wants to change it again. I find this regulation change to be a poor idea, as it is currently being proposed. To simply open up the allowed rifles to virtually any big game caliber .243 or larger without additional regulation I believe is a mistake that could lead to safety concerns. First off let me say that I believe the use of these longer range calibers is unnecessary. There are plenty of good choices in caliber selection already and these are perfectly acceptable for the ranges at which most hunters find themselves taking deer in Indiana. There are very few times that one finds himself in Indiana needing a firearm capable of taking a deer at several hundred yards. There also seems to be some concern that much of Indiana is either too flat or too populated to safely use these far reaching calibers. Second, I believe that the passage of this proposal without further regulations, such as a magazine restriction could lead to safety concerns. It isn't often that I (a gun store owner and 2nd amendment advocate) would argue in favor of a magazine restriction. However, many times I find myself out in the woods listening to what sounds more like "cover fire" rather than a well placed hunting shot. There are some people (amazingly enough) that will fire a 12ga shotgun 4 or 5 times in a row at any deer they see. Let me further explain that the recoil of a 12ga firing a slug is fairly substantial. Enough so that it is virtually impossible to stay on target while firing shots so close together. This means that there seem to be a fair amount of people out there that are firing slugs toward a deer without really being on target. With that said, this new proposal would make the 7.62x39mm cartridge legal to use for taking deer. While I find this cartridge to be nearly ideal for that size game animal, this cartridge is also chambered in some firearms that are not so ideal. To be more specific, the SKS and AK47 models of rifles. These rifles, while being accurate enough to take deer at modest ranges, are capable of accepting large capacity magazines which can have capacities of 20, 30 and even 40 rounds. I think back to the person who fires 5 rounds of heavy recoiling 12ga in a row and wonder what they might do with the lighter recoiling (read that as: easier to shoot in rapid succession) 7.62x39mm with 20+ rounds at their disposal. I find that it would be a mistake to not also introduce a reasonable 5 round magazine restriction with this new proposal. Third and final, I would like to recommend a more reasonable and sensible regulation change for Indiana. My proposal is to keep the current rifle minimum bullet diameter of .357" and minimum case length of 1.16" and simply remove the maximum case length restriction. I would also change the pistol regulation to match and simplify these regulations to have only 1 allowable firearms regulation for both pistols and rifles. This would allow some larger caliber choices while still limiting the longer range calibers. Bullet diameter is the key factor here. When you go below .357" you start getting into more calibers capable of longer ranges. Let me explain it like this, picture a small spear and a brick. Both weighing the same amount. One is skinny and longer and one is fatter and shorter. Which one will fly farther if you were to throw it? The spear of course. While I realize this is a bit of an exaggeration, it is pretty much the same thing with bullet diameter. And with the bullet diameter at .357" minimum, a magazine restriction would also not be necessary as there are few rifles capable of holding a large capacity of these size rounds.

Comment Received 11/20/2014 4:52:19 PM

Commenter Name kyle brown

City bedford County LAWRENCE State Indiana

E-Mail Address kyleabrown36@gmail.com

Comments I think the high power rifle would be great for indiana and help lower the deer herd. But I think it should be mandatory to wear a full orange vest for better saftey. Also maybe just make a high power rifle season like you did for muzzleloader. But make rifle season after shotgun season.

Comment Received 11/20/2014 8:27:37 PM

Commenter Name Seth Forgey

City Walton County CASS State Indiana

E-Mail Address hunter121684@aol.com

Comments I do not think that in SECTION 5. 312 IAC 9-3-3 subsection (d)(4) changing to open up to the hi-cal rifles is a very good idea. Most of the rural areas in the state are too populated and are deer population is too low to support these kind of firearms. I strongly suggest that this amendment gets removed. I farm and I also hunt, I just do not see the amount of deer that I used to see.

Comment Received 11/21/2014 5:08:06 AM

Commenter Name Colt barnett

City Lowell County LAKE State Indiana

E-Mail Address Cwbarnett87@gmail.com

Comments I moved from Texas. 9 years in the army and I need to use rifles for me I'm more comfortable and confident taking a deer with a rifle than a bow. It is more humane. I am very skilled with both but I know the is a great number of hunters that take improper shots at game and hurts the game and makes it suffer.

Comment Received 11/21/2014 12:19:27 PM

Commenter Name Josh Apple

City Wawaka County NOBLE State Indiana

E-Mail Address Joshhdapple@gmail.com

Comments I am in favor of these rule changes specifically the deer equipment changes. The biggest reason being my son. With these changes he will be able to harvest a deer sooner than he would with our current regulations. These changes allow him to use a much softer recoiling rifle to hunt with

Comment Received 11/21/2014 12:35:40 PM

Commenter Name Billy Kent

City Memphis **County** CLARK **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address Billy_kent@b-f.com

Comments No vote for me on proposed caliber changes for Indiana firearms season. I feel we have a very broad selection of calibers as currently written and expanding to include the new calibers will negatively impact out hunting. Current calibers provide enough range to be effective in all most all indiana terrains. Increasing range will only make hunters more apt to take bad shots at long distances. I personally do not feel comfortable knowing people on the next property are piping off 300-400 yard shots especially with semi auto weapons. The majority of land here in Clark county is fairly flat and most areas don't offer shots over 200 yards.

If you want to control the population expand the seasons and lower the price of tags. Just like the late fall turkey season. Just up the limit to two birds in the spring and see what happens.

Comment Received 11/21/2014 2:39:37 PM

Commenter Name Jon Harsin

City Hanover **County** JEFFERSON **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address joytrackin@aol.com

Comments I love that you are looking at legalizing rifles in Indiana. This is long over due.

Thanks,

Jon Harsin

Comment Received 11/21/2014 2:46:47 PM

Commenter Name jason skeens

City lanesville **County** FLOYD **State** in

E-Mail Address jpskeens82@yahoo.com

Comments I don't feel the move to high powered rifles is a good move. Maybe on private land it's ok but I hunt state property and there are too many people in the public land to allow high powered rifles. Last week opening week of gun season within an hour I had 3 people sit within 100 yards of me after me waving my orange at them. They still hunted that close. I for one will not feel safe with people like that carrying rifles in the woods

Comment Received 11/21/2014 3:07:49 PM

Commenter Name Kyle Hardebeck

City Batesville **County** RIPLEY **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address khardebeck21@yahoo.com

Comments Please allow the use rifles for whitetail deer. It would allow for better rounds to have more humane kills.

Thank You

Comment Received 11/21/2014 4:18:13 PM

Commenter Name mike kick

City Batesville **County** RIPLEY **State** IN

E-Mail Address mkick@etczone.com

Comments I am totally for changing the law to allow rifles capable of firing .243 bullet or larger.

Comment Received 11/21/2014 5:54:08 PM

Commenter Name Tom Shevlot

City Indianapolis **County** MARION **State** IN

E-Mail Address Tomshevlot@yahoo.com

Comments I am in support of the rule change to allow rifle cartridges during the deer season. I own a farm in Greene county and for the past 20 years, it pains me to hear about deer shot with slugs that are not recovered. I fully support using caliber so that match the game being hunted. We allow the use these weapons for other game/predators and if you want hunters to retrieve more game after it has been shot, you will allow this measure to be approved.

Comment Received 11/21/2014 7:50:45 PM

Commenter Name chris miller

City rochester **County** FULTON **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address bcmiller@rtcol.com

Comments Say no too the higher powered rifles ! The ranges of firearms now are sufficient more range is a safety issue, if the higher power rifles are passed more arrant rounds will be flying into surrounding area woods, fields, ect...

Comment Received 11/21/2014 8:55:25 PM

Commenter Name Kyle Parr

City Greenville **County** FLOYD **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address kyleparr@hotmail.com

Comments Next year I will use a rifle if they are legalized, but it would be my preference that they NOT be legalized. I won't make any claims about safety. My issue is more just personal preference. My one concern is hunters taking ill-advised long shots because they've heard their gun is a 400 yard gun, but they've never taken time to practice at that range. Other than that, I just don't feel like the rifle is needed. Indiana hunters are currently doing a great job of controlling the herd using shotguns, muzzleloaders and bows. Nothing is broken, nothing needs fixed.

Comment Received 11/21/2014 9:45:11 PM

Commenter Name Dean Crandall
City Shoals **County** MARTIN **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address enchi1@frontier.com
Comments I want the high powered rifle option in 2015
Comment Received 11/21/2014 10:32:38 PM

Commenter Name Mike winks
City crothersville **County** JACKSON **State** indiana
E-Mail Address soggybottom.winks@gmail.com
Comments Show me who kills deer at 500 yards with a muzzle loader. A lot of your facts to defend this rule change is B.S. You are not comparing apples to apples. Does Illinois or Ohio use rifles? Their topography is closer to Indiana's. Why is it so difficult to find where to leave comments (also B.S.). It appears you have your mind made up. Someone's going to get hurt and the anti hunters are going to have a field day at the hunters expense. Come down out of your glass houses and look at it through realistic glasses instead of the dream state you are in!
Comment Received 11/22/2014 10:09:37 AM

Commenter Name Mike winks
City crothersville **County** JACKSON **State** indiana
E-Mail Address soggybottom.winks@gmail.com
Comments Forgot to comment on urban zones. The entire state is a deer reduction zone! Isn't that the main objective of the deer season? Changing the name is just another attempt to mislead people. More smoke and mirrors. It would look bad when people find out you could use a high power rifle in an urban zone! That doesn't even sound right does it? WAKE UP PEOPLE!!!
Comment Received 11/22/2014 10:19:34 AM

Commenter Name Brad Davidson
City Charlestown **County** CLARK **State** INDIANA
E-Mail Address brad.davidson@samtec.com
Comments I dont believe that we should all high powered rifles in our state. I think we will see a great reduction in our deer herd and I believe safety could be an issue with the amount of careless, reckless individuals that already hunt with shotguns and PCR rifles.
Comment Received 11/22/2014 10:46:48 PM

Commenter Name Chad Witham
City Martinsville **County** MORGAN **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address cwitham.me@gmail.com
Comments Please pass the rules/law changes for Fish & Wildlife General Rule Package, River Otters
Comment Received 11/23/2014 2:14:18 PM

Commenter Name Rick Bramwell
City Pendleton **County** MADISON **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address rickbramwell@aol.com
Comments Shotguns and muzzleloaders have advanced to the point that there is little difference between their capabilities and those of high-powered rifles. I am for allowing .243 or higher calibers. I'm 70 and will probably stay with my .44 and inline muzzleloader.
Comment Received 11/23/2014 9:24:59 PM

Commenter Name Jason R. Roberts
City Cloverdale **County** PUTNAM **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address Moyb63@yahoo.com
Comments In regard to firearms proposal, the use of rifles during deer season. This proposal seems to have serious safety flaws. To the point, comparing a high powered rifle to 500 yd muzzle loaders and single shot pistols that handle rifle loads is a mistake! The skill level used for 500yd muzzleloaders and high powered pistols are much greater than that of the other rifles. Rifles in the hands of an excited hunter could become very dangerous! Which brings me to another concern, which is population density. To compare Indiana terrain to the thick forest of Michigan or mountains of Kentucky and Pennsylvania is well lack of words, Crazy. Indiana has a large rural population and smaller pockets of forests. Many claim coyote hunting with rifles is no different, wrong again. Two things wrong here. First, coyote hunting are done in sets. Shots are thought out well in advance before calling begins. Second, not near has many hunters out at this time and other non hunters. A hunter with Buck fever and a multi-shot high powered rifle in a rural populated state like Indiana would have serious safety risks! To assure are good hunting safety record this proposal should really be reconsidered. They say a glass of red wine is good for the heart, but that doesn't mean the whole bottle would be better! The firearm laws in place for deer, coyote, turkey, etc are more than fair. More importantly are Safe for all hunters as well non hunters. Thank you for taking the time to hear my concerns.
Comment Received 11/23/2014 10:25:07 PM

Commenter Name Herb Higgins
City Greenwood **County** JOHNSON **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address dizzy_higg@hotmail.com

Comments In reference to rule 312 IAC 9-3-3: Section 3 - D - 4; A - I am not in favor of changing the current diameter from .357: C - I am not in favor of removal of the maximum case length - I believe that both changes will add what are classified as "High Power" rifle cartridges that will have a negative affect on the age structure of the deer harvest. This age struture is moving in a direction of supporting older deer with the one buck rule making Indiana a place to come to hunt bigger (older) bucks.

I support 312 IAC 9-4-10, the closing of the ruffed grouse season. However I beleive there needs to be a focus from the DNR to re-establish the supportive habitat that has been lost.

Comment Received 11/24/2014 6:59:28 AM

Commenter Name Kenneth Pajor

City North Judson **County** STARKE **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address scottpajor@gmail.com

Comments I am against the changes proposed for rifle cartridge size in this rule.

I do not want to see additional rifle cartridges added.

Thank you

Comment Received 11/24/2014 9:44:22 AM

Commenter Name Phillip Hathaway

City VALPARAISO **County** PORTER **State** IN

Organization (optional) Mr.

E-Mail Address philhathaway@gmail.com

Comments First off let me say your proposed rule for allowing rifles is ludicrous and unsafe. I live in Northwest Indiana and there is ABSOLUTELY NO NEED for rifles. You barely have a shot over 100 yards. I hunt from a ground blind and using a rifle higher then a handgun flat out scares me that it would keep traveling if I missed which does happen.

Comment Received 11/24/2014 12:39:09 PM

Commenter Name Scott Jones

City Greenwood **County** JOHNSON **State** IN

E-Mail Address scwjones@embarqmail.com

Comments 1. Strongly endorse restricting the caliber and cartridge length rule. This should allow access for more hunters including women and younger hunters due since they will be able to use rifles with less noise and recoil. This rule change also allows more freedom in selecting an appropriate hunting weapon and not rely on working through loop holes in the rules. There will be those that worry about safety but I think those worries are built on conjecture and half truths. The comments on the web site concerning muzzle loaders and near by states are spot on. These changes will have a beneficial impact on the upcoming deer seasons. I am eager to hunt next year and am looking forward to using some classic deer calibers like an unaltered 35 Remington, 30-30 or my favorite 7x57 Mauser.

2. I think the exclusion of 223 caliber cartridges such as 223 Remington, 22-250 etc. was a mistake. There is very little difference (about 0.02 inches!) between the 223's and 243's. There are several commercial companies that manufacture 223 Rem ammo with bullets appropriate for medium sized game. In most cartridges smaller than the 338's the hunter has to select an appropriate bullet for the game. There is just as many varmint loads in 243 as there are 223 and varmint loads can be found in 7 mm and 308 cartridges. Include the 223's and work on educating on appropriate bullet choice. Not allowing FMJ is a big step to excluding bad bullet choices.

3. Consider making counties that are currently listed as 8 doe counties as part of the newly defined "Reduction Zones" and continue to current earn a buck rules.

4. Consider publishing locations of wild boars on public land. I know hunting is not an effective control measure but I am in favor of killing these non-native animals to avoid the troubles other states have with them.

Comment Received 11/24/2014 1:25:55 PM

Commenter Name Taylor Barker

City Mooreland **County** HENRY **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address tpbnw@yahoo.com

Comments I am in support of the proposed bullet diameter and case length requirements for the deer hunting season changing to .243 and eliminating the case length maximum.

Comment Received 11/24/2014 3:41:21 PM

Commenter Name dave richardson

City avon **County** HENDRICKS **State** in

E-Mail Address nomadtreaure@prodigy.net

Comments I am against using high powered rifles for deer hunting in Indiana because of safety reasons.the safety of anyone in the woods,near the the woods,a passer by on the road,a nearby home.a hunter can't always see as far as a high powered rifle can shoot.please say no to this proposed rule (9-3-3) change.

Comment Received 11/24/2014 3:47:59 PM

Commenter Name Mike Whitaker

City Martinsville County MORGAN State Indiana

E-Mail Address michaelwhit83@gmail.com

Comments I am for the rule 312 IAC 9-3-3 that states information about the .243 diameter bullet and above. I agree that the rifles should be allowed in Indiana as they are allowed in bordering states and they seem to be having luck with them, not only would this bring in extra revenue for the state by bringing in more hunters it would also help with harvest rates of whitetail deer in certain counties that need more deer taken. Using a rifle will increase range and accuracy resulting in a more ethical kill.

Comment Received 11/24/2014 5:43:13 PM

Commenter Name Heath Williams

City North Vernon County JENNINGS State Indiana

E-Mail Address heathen776@yahoo.com

Comments I do support the rule change to allow rifles in caliber .243 or larger with a minimum case length of 1.6" and no maximum case length. I believe the included calibers are more accurate, and kill more efficiently than the calibers allowed under the present law. Under present law rifle calibers are allowed in pistol platforms, and pistol calibers are allowed in rifle platforms. Some wildcat loads are allowed, but commercial loads of equal power are not. It is overly complicated, and this rule change would simplify Indiana's firearm laws. High powered calibers are already allowed for deer in pistol platforms, wildcat chamberings and when hunting varmints/coyotes in Indiana. This, along with the data from surrounding states who allow these rifles during their deer seasons, proves that these rifles can be used safely while hunting. There is a school of thought that says these rifles are too dangerous for Indiana, but this belief is not based on real information, but rather on misinformed fear mongering. The truth is that high powered rifles are more efficient, accurate and effective. This efficiency should lead to less wounded deer, and fewer shots fired per deer harvested.

Comment Received 11/24/2014 9:34:47 PM

Commenter Name Tammy Williams

City North Vernon County JENNINGS State Indiana

E-Mail Address twilliams0523@icloud.com

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Comment Received 11/24/2014 9:36:56 PM

Commenter Name Mark Williams

City Scipio County JENNINGS State Indiana

E-Mail Address clint0481@yahoo.com

Comments I do support the rule change to allow rifles in caliber .243 or larger with a minimum case length of 1.6" and no maximum case length. I believe the included calibers are more accurate, and kill more efficiently than the calibers allowed under the present law. Under present law rifle calibers are allowed in pistol platforms, and pistol calibers are allowed in rifle platforms. Some wildcat loads are allowed, but commercial loads of equal power are not. It is overly complicated, and this rule change would simplify Indiana's firearm laws. High powered calibers are already allowed for deer in pistol platforms, wildcat chamberings and all calibers are legal for hunting varmints/coyotes in Indiana. This, along with the data from surrounding states who allow these rifles during their deer seasons, proves that these rifles can be used safely while hunting. There is a school of thought that says these rifles are too dangerous for Indiana, but this belief is not based on real information, but rather on misinformed fear mongering. The truth is that high powered rifles are more efficient, accurate and effective. This efficiency should lead to less wounded deer, and fewer shots fired per deer harvested.

Comment Received 11/24/2014 10:12:01 PM

Commenter Name Danny S. Smith

City Bluffton County WELLS State Indiana

E-Mail Address dasmith1947@att.net

Comments I support the use of center fire rifles of .243 caliber or larger to take deer with. We already have handguns that are chambered in these calibers.

Comment Received 11/25/2014 5:41:06 AM

Commenter Name Daniel Woolston

City Poseyville County POSEY State Indiana

E-Mail Address danwoolston67@gmail.com

Comments As a hunter, I am against the proposed rule change allowing most rifle calibers for hunting deer. Modern slug guns and inline muzzle loaders have more than enough effective range for the relatively short distance (less than 200 yds) at which most deer are killed. In the interest of safety, for all of Indiana, I encourage you to not allow the proposed firearm

changes. It is not worth the risk.

Comment Received 11/25/2014 7:48:32 AM

Commenter Name Danny S. Smith

City Bluffton **County** WELLS **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address dasmith1947@att.net

Comments Recommend passing the .243 caliber and up rule for rifles.

Comment Received 11/25/2014 7:50:23 AM

Commenter Name John Lee

City Greenwood **County** JOHNSON **State** IN

E-Mail Address goodcruisin@yahoo.com

Comments I fully agree with the rule changes that allow for rifles .243 and larger. Modern day muzzleloaders outperform many rifles as it is. Additionally, most other states allow hunting with .243 and larger rifles so we'd just be bringing Indiana in line with most other states. Also, many hunters who may want to travel to IN to hunt do not own slug shotguns or muzzleloaders. Allowing rifles for deer hunting will make Indiana more attractive for out of state hunters which will increase revenue for DNR.

Comment Received 11/25/2014 8:36:02 AM

Commenter Name Ryan Tolley

City Covington **County** FOUNTAIN **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address ryanolley23@gmail.com

Comments I do not believe that we should change the current regulations on the use of rifles. I think by allowing .243 or larger calibers and removing the maximum cartridge length, we will be making a big mistake. I think that this can and will cause an increase in accidents and damage to homeowner's properties. I have never liked the idea of using rifles. I think that deer hunting is less of a challenge and the deer will not stand a chance when there are thousands of hunters sitting in trees with rifles. I believe these hunters will have the mind set that will be capable of shooting 400+ yards. The rifle might be capable but the hunters are not. This will cause more inhumane kills and a larger number of wounded deer. I ask that you table this regulation and discuss further in the future. Thanks

Comment Received 11/25/2014 8:40:05 AM

Commenter Name Darren Ritchie

City North Vernon **County** JENNINGS **State** IN

E-Mail Address darren.ritchie75@gmail.com

Comments I do support the rule change to allow rifles in caliber .243 or larger with a minimum case length of 1.6" and no maximum case length.

I believe the included calibers are more accurate, and kill more efficiently, and humanely than the calibers allowed under the present law.

Under present law rifle calibers are allowed in pistol platforms, and pistol calibers are allowed in rifle platforms.

It is overly complicated, and this rule change would simplify Indiana's firearm laws. High powered calibers are already allowed for deer in pistol platforms, wildcat chamberings and when hunting varmints/coyotes in Indiana. This, along with the data from surrounding states who allow these rifles during their deer seasons, proves that these rifles can be used safely while hunting. We have always been told that these rifles are too dangerous for Indiana due to not having enough hill, but this belief is not based on real information, but rather on misinformation. The truth is that high powered rifles are more efficient, accurate and effective. This efficiency should lead to less wounded deer, and fewer shots fired per deer harvested.

Comment Received 11/25/2014 8:56:16 AM

Commenter Name Gary Oestreich

City Valparaiso **County** PORTER **State** In

E-Mail Address gary.oestreich@frontier.com

Comments DO NOT!!! ALLOW .243 CALIBERS AND LARGER DURING THE FIREARMS SEASON FOR WHITE TAIL DEER. THE NORTHERN PART OF OUR STATE IS TOO DENSELY POPULATED IN RURAL AREAS FOR THE SAFETY OF HUNTERS AND NON HUNTERS TO BE ASSURED. THE CURRENT LEGAL WEAPONS FOR ALL SEASONS IS MORE THAN ADEQUATE ENOUGH FOR A HUNTER TO HARVEST A WHITETAIL DEER.

Comment Received 11/25/2014 9:58:41 AM

Commenter Name Allan Hamilton

City poland **County** OWEN **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address allan@datacentricsol.com

Comments I agree with proposed changes for "Section 5: 312 IAC 9-3-3 Equipment for deer hunting". I implore the commission to vote "yes" on these rule changes.

Comment Received 11/25/2014 11:02:28 AM

Commenter Name Scott Keller
City Westville **County** PORTER **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address smk1062@aol.com
Comments 312 IAC 9-3-3 Comments:

Instead of removing the requirement for cartridge length, make it 2.3 in. This would still give Hunters many good choices for caliber selection. But, would eliminate the really big cartridges. Also, for safety sake, eliminate semi- auto rifles. PA does.
Comment Received 11/25/2014 11:09:21 AM

Commenter Name Calvin Hunt
City Kokomo **County** HOWARD **State** IN
Organization (optional) Wildcat creek Deer Hunters
E-Mail Address Rothhar1@aol.com

Comments I am all for the use of 243 or larger HPRs in all of the state in gun season .This is a great idea and about time been long time coming . I also do not believe any sort of season compromise is needed at all over this rule .A hunter will only take what he wants no matter the weapon or season length and be done. This is no different than the xbow rule the sky did not fall and many who were out of hunting came into it and many just switched weapon and thats it .It will also bring much needed revenue to the DNR coffers .Bring it on my custom 30-06 has never taken a deer it is just setting in the gun cabinet collecting dust .

Comment Received 11/25/2014 12:15:41 PM

Commenter Name Andrew Guernsey
City Otisco **County** CLARK **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address andy@basecamplesing.com

Comments I would like to start this e-mail by thanking our DNR for doing their best in trying to make Indiana an outdoors men friendly state. However, the proposal to allow Rifle's in the State of Indiana is a mistake.
First of all lets look at the claim that modern muzzle loaders are 500 yard guns. Loaded with the lightest bullet available, and the maximum powder an over the counter muzzle loader can use. The bullet drop would be over 6 feet, 78 inches to be exact. That is not an ethical shot and should never be taken.

Lets say someone wants to take that shot with a muzzle loader, it then would take at least 50 seconds to re-load and shoot again. With a high powered rifle you could have shot another 20 shots at the animal, and missed 20 more times. Does this sound safe to you?

The new language allows for any type of rifle over .243 to be used, this would allow the use of military style .50 caliber Sniper rifles. I do not want to be in the woods with 50,000 hunters out there that could be using these high powered rifles. There are a few states around us that allow Rifles to be used, the main reason they are allowed is due to the amount of forestland that those states have and the terrain as well. I want to compare those states to Indiana.

Indiana- 20% forest land
Kentucky- 47% forest land
Michigan- 50% forest land
Pennsylvania- 55% forestland

I hope you see the difference and realize that the use of rifles in the state of Indiana is not a good idea.

Comment Received 11/25/2014 12:41:32 PM

Commenter Name Andrew Guernsey
City Otisco **County** CLARK **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address andy@basecamplesing.com

Comments I would like to start this e-mail by thanking our DNR for doing their best in trying to make Indiana an outdoors men friendly state. However, the proposal to allow Rifle's in the State of Indiana is a mistake.
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Michigan- 50% forest land
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Comment Received 11/25/2014 12:42:46 PM

Commenter Name Ryan Secrist
City Rochester **County** FULTON **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address ryanjsecrist@gmail.com

Comments I am in full agreement that the allowed rifle cartridges should be expanded to allow a better variety of offerings. The average hunter (that I know) does not have the financial ability to purchase a custom rifle. The rifles that are available in Indiana as wild cat rounds (358 Hoosier, 357 wssm, etc) are cartridges that have been specifically designed for Indiana deer hunting. These are more than capable of taking game beyond 300 yards, but they come at a hefty price. The rifle alone can cost over \$1000. Once the hunter adds optics and a reasonable supply of ammunition, there are few that can legitimately afford to hunt using this option. I believe that using a rifle should not be for the elite hunters in Indiana.

Allowing more options for rifles will also permit more hunters to join the sport. Using a .243 Winchester for small frame and younger hunters is a great way to introduce them. Using this low recoiling round compared to a shotgun with a slug is a much easier option to get them shooting with good technique. This good technique typically results in better shots, fewer wounded deer, and a larger amount of happier hunters.

The limitations of Indiana's current laws are only limiting who can afford to use what. The hunters that can afford a custom rifle have the option to shoot to standard high power rifle distances. Those who cannot afford the custom rifle must use the typical Indiana gear.

In addition to this, modern muzzleloaders have come a significant way in the past years. Still using black powder and sabot slugs, the muzzleloader manufacturers are guaranteeing capabilities to 300 yards (Traditions LDR). Couple this with the legality of smokeless muzzleloaders that are capable of 4-500 yard accurate shots, and the only difference is whether you have to load it from the muzzle or breech when compared to a centerfire rifle.

I urge you to pass this law to allow rifles. It opens up the sport that you are trying to protect to new hunters and will help to keep it alive for years to come.

Comment Received 11/25/2014 1:19:57 PM

Commenter Name Mark Fink

City Pittsboro **County** HENDRICKS **State** IN

E-Mail Address mfink@indy.rr.com

Comments I would like to say that I agree with all of the proposed changes in this proposed rules amendment package. Regarding the proposed rifle cartridge changes for deer hunting, I fully support and welcome this change. I believe that in the long term, the use of "High Powered Rifles" will result in less wounded and unrecovered deer.

Comment Received 11/25/2014 2:30:02 PM

Commenter Name Eric Rentschler

City Huntington **County** HUNTINGTON **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address eric.rentschler@hotmail.com

Comments I believe that the proposed rifle caliber proposal would be a good change for Indiana. It will allow hunters more freedom to choose calibers more suited to their individual need and generate more interest in the sport. I also believe it would increase hunter safety in comparison to larger, slower calibers after researching studies completed on the subject.

Comment Received 11/25/2014 8:21:47 PM

Commenter Name Alan Shourds

City Rockport **County** SPENCER **State** IN

E-Mail Address medic118@aol.com

Comments I have real problems with the general use of centerfire rifles in the deer season, to the point of closing my land to hunting. Several of the local farmers feel the same way. This part of the state is so populated to allow their general use.

Comment Received 11/25/2014 8:22:30 PM

Commenter Name justin thomas

City Rising Sun **County** OHIO **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address justinthomas_15@hotmail.com

Comments I am against this proposal. The population and the terrain in most of the northern part of the state does not allow for the use of high powered rifles. I have a big enough problem in my area in the southern part of the state with the Ohio hunters who come in and shoot at anything that moves and trespass high powered rifles will only give those people the false hope that they can kill a deer at extreme distances. Please do not pass this law.

Comment Received 11/25/2014 9:11:54 PM

Commenter Name Wendy Kindig

City Indianapolis **County** MARION **State** IN

E-Mail Address wendykindig@aol.com

Comments I am against high powered rifles for deer hunting in Indiana due to increased risk of accidents because the bullets go long distances and with ricochet off a hard surface change directions.

Comment Received 11/26/2014 3:01:00 PM

Commenter Name Christopher P Marcum

City Salem **County** WASHINGTON **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address fmc1127@live.com

Comments I don't think it is a good idea to allow all high powered rifles to be used for deer hunting. I would like to see you open it up to calibers like the 45-70, 444, and the 450 and other rounds like these. The larger high powered rounds like the 243, 30-06, 270, 308, 300 win mag, and all the other rounds like these are just simply have range way more than 500 yards.

People will us the biggest gun they can find and alot of these rounds a tree will not slow them down nor will the wall of a house. And I saw you refer to a 500 yard round , I know from experience that a 243 and up will shot 500+ yards that is why I dont think it is a good idea. Thanks for the opportunity to voice my opinion.

Comment Received 11/26/2014 4:34:30 PM

Commenter Name matt claridge

City Lynnville **County** WARRICK **State** indiana

E-Mail Address 87slash21@gmail.com

Comments I fully support the changes allowing rifles. The current firearm regs are too confusing and need to be easier to understand and follow.

Comment Received 11/26/2014 10:10:40 PM

Commenter Name Brian Lamb

City North Vernon **County** JENNINGS **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address brianwlamb@msn.com

Comments I am in favor of the current proposed laws concerning legal rifle caliber changes and cartridge length changes. This restriction has been very expensive to reload and modify cartridges just to meet the current laws. I believe this new law would be as safe to hunt as it is now and have no concerns about added risks. Please pass the proposed law as written.

Comment Received 11/27/2014 6:29:31 AM

Commenter Name Chris Allen

City Bedford **County** LAWRENCE **State** IN.

Organization (optional) none

E-Mail Address dalerose55@yahoo.com

Comments I would like to see the new rules for hunting deer with highpower rifles such as the 30-30 or the 40-70 or 243. Also i would like to see crossbow law to change so that hunters could hunt Archery from Oct.toJan. it should not be just for handicap. as a hunter i think it would benefit all thank you

Comment Received 11/27/2014 11:50:31 AM

Commenter Name Isaac Frank

City Celestine **County** DUBOIS **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address 7mmRM1@gmail.com

Comments Very much in favor of allowing centerfire rifles 6mm or larger.

Comment Received 11/28/2014 7:02:31 AM

Commenter Name Leslie Briggs

City Westfield **County** HAMILTON **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address Leslieiu@hotmail.com

Comments I am a landowner and I allow hunters to hunt on my land. If rifle law passes I am going to revoke their permission. I trust them as safe hunter but not the people hunting neighboring properties. I do not support this law!

Comment Received 11/28/2014 8:27:18 PM

Commenter Name Steve Reid Sr

City Argos **County** MARSHALL **State** IN

E-Mail Address skrsr1@yahoo.com

Comments While all for the rifle proposal to pass please consider these two additions to it and the reasons for such. There is no downside to more hunter orange to be mandated during season for safety sake. "Needed" or not it still is a "better safe than sorry" point.

Consider too the fact that PA and DE both do not allow for semi-auto rifle use. While it was under attack in 2014 in the House Rule 2333, this rule failed to make it out of committee and both still bad the use of such. This has been the case for DECADES, even prior to the "black rifle" enthusiasm.

While there ARE some semi-auto sporting guns. The entire PURPOSE of the black rifle types is one thing. RAPID FIRE through ported and reduced recoil systems added to the already low recoil of such.

While such CAN be used ethically and safely the entire purpose the rifle type exists, that of capability of rapid fire, is null and void.

There is ZERO need for rapid fire hunting and it's IMPOSSIBLE to contemplate where the bullets may go during rapid fire. Rifles can and will be used safely but there exists no reason to include a weapon created for the purpose of rapid fire.

So my vote goes to more hunter orange in square inches mandated to hunt legally and.....please.
No semi-auto rifles.

The presence of such and the general "fear" of such will have land owners slamming the door to hunters out of fear for "what could happen" and if they have to make a decision, they will err on the side of safety and simply shut the door to hunting and hunters...period.

As an average hunter I can contest to the difficulty to gaining access even in a county I've lived in my entire life. Allowing "assault rifle" types will further create concerns for landowners in the area of safety for hunters and non hunters alike and doors will get closed.

There simply is no "need" for such and certainly no upside to allowing them.
What certain groups WANT is not a factor for sensible and safe hunting practices.

God Bless

Comment Received 11/29/2014 2:13:38 AM

Commenter Name Roger pund

City Huntingburg **County** DUBOIS **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address rpglobal24@gmail.com

Comments I fully support and recommend the adoption of the proposed amendment of SECTION 5. 312 IAC 9-3-3 to allow the use of rifles for hunting deer with .243 bullet diameter and minimum case length

Thank you

Comment Received 11/29/2014 7:56:57 AM

Commenter Name Todd Cripe

City Flora **County** HOWARD **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address lewy39@yahoo.com

Comments I am writing in regards to the proposed rule change to allow high powered rifles for deer hunting. I have hunted for 30 years in the area that I live in and have witnessed the steady decline in the deer herd over the last 10 years. The area that I live in only has wood patches and a lot of open fields. I don't feel there are enough woods to stop a stray rifle round from coming into our house. therefore I do not agree with allowing high powered rifles to be used in this area of the state. We are very good at killing deer in this state with the weapons we are currently allowed to use and I don't see why we have to risk the safety of homeowners by letting an amateur hunter shoot at a deer running across an open field with a rifle round that can carry for miles. maybe certain parts of the state are suited for rifles but I do not think my area has enough cover. Remember not all hunters shoot from a tree stand which would at that angle most likely stop the round. some hunt from ground blinds and just from the ground which puts a round at no angle. Thank You Todd Cripe

Comment Received 11/29/2014 9:11:40 AM

Commenter Name Thomas Browne

City Jeffersonville **County** CLARK **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address Tom264mag@gmail.com

Comments Hello,

I would like to comment on Amendment 312 IAC 9-3-3 governing equipment use for deer hunting.

First I will state emphatically I am 100% for it.

I see no reason to not allow rifles for deer hunting in our state, many neighboring states do allow rifles and are successful at it.

I have always wanted to use rifles in our state but ended up using a 12 gauge shotgun for many years until the year we went to the HCR law then when that came about I thought about getting a TC Contender in .357 maximum....which I ultimately did for my at the time 9 yr old son who wanted to deer hunt something terrible.

He seemed to be really recoil shy and I knew my shotgun would not work for him so started him practicing .38 specials working up to .357 magnum then on to .357 max, needless to say this was the best thing I ever done for him as he is 11 now and has taken 5 deer with it, one of them being a great 8 pt buck.

All shots were 1 shot kills and none of the deer suffered, I guess what I'm getting at is I don't think he would have done as well with my shotgun.

I think this scenario helped my son get "into" hunting more, had he used my shotgun with heavier recoiling he may still stay at home when I go out.

He has already told me if Indiana goes to rifles he wants to use his .243 winchester, he's kinda excited.

My reasoning for using rifles is on many fronts, 1 I'm not gonna lie, it will extend my range a bit but where I hunt I doubt I can shoot over. 275-300 yds but having the capability is comforting.

2 rifles for the most part are lighter more maneuverable and easier to handle in a treestand.

3 rifles are much more accurate, recoil less and have a much wider array of bullet/ammo selection not to mention cheaper than shotgun slugs which could mean more people could practice more often becoming better shots and wounding less game.

4 safer than a shotgun slug, I say this because of many reports I have read concerning this, this is the #1 issue when talking to other hunters that are against the idea of rifles they state a shotgun is much safer due to the range capabilities but I argue the opposite as you will see in my list of links concerning the "rifle vs shotgun" safety issues links I provided below.

<http://articles.mcall.com/2007-03-29...shotgun-rifle>

<http://www.americanhunter.org/mobile...d=21332&cid=56>

<http://www.wagc.com/study-shoots-hol...an-rifle-idea/>

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/press/95689.html>

I think what the public needs to understand the safety issues of shotgun vs rifles is to be educated on it. (And I mean that in a big way)

I'm sure I will remember many other reasons to use rifles for deer after I email this but I think you get my drift.

One other thing I want to point out is some people think "hunters" will use "bumpfire" stocks on their rifles to throw more lead, I personally do not know 1 hunter that would ever use such a device as my friends and I strive for the "one shot one kill" mantra on hunting but if this amendment passes I would like to see wording concerning the use of things that allow almost a full auto like stock/trigger to be not allowed.

Also limiting magazine capacities to say 5 rounds would be great.

Anyway thank you for reading this and I hope my thoughts on the subject are valid and considered.

I leave you with this thought, I honestly think that rifles would make safer hunting, I think it would introduce more people to the sport I think people would become better marksman and I do not believe it would decimate our deer herd.

Once again thank you for your time,

Thomas Browne

Comment Received 11/30/2014 10:48:33 AM

Commenter Name Jeff Wood

City Rensselaer **County** JASPER **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address wood_jd@hotmail.com

Comments Considering the housing density in northern Indiana, the distance a high powered rifle bullet will travel, the semi-automatic rifles available, and the general lack of respect by a lot of so called "hunters", I think it would be a terrible idea to allow high powered rifles to be used during the deer hunting season. I would like to know what group (or who) is suggesting this proposal. Thank You. Jeff Wood

Comment Received 11/30/2014 1:42:01 PM

Commenter Name David Williams

City Indianapolis **County** MARION **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address deltajett@comcast.net

Comments I am a life time outdoorsman and resident of this state and many things have been changing is the sportsman's world, which on the surface appear to be good things, but in reality they are not so well thought out.

I for one, enjoy the deer hunting season where only various calibers of shotgun are legal weapons. I hope that for the sake of tradition of Hoosiers everywhere, we do not adopt rifles into our already efficient deer herd management program.

Comment Received 11/30/2014 5:34:24 PM

Commenter Name Fred McIntire

City Greencastle **County** PUTNAM **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address Fred@FredMcIntire.Com

Comments I support the following rule change:

(4) A rifle must fire a cartridge that meets the following specifications:

(A) Fire a bullet of two hundred forty-three thousandths (.243) of an inch diameter or larger.

(B) Have a minimum case length of one and sixteen-hundredths (1.16) inches.

Full metal jacketed bullets are unlawful.

Comment Received 11/30/2014 10:37:42 PM

Commenter Name Bill Tuckwe

City Larwill **County** WHITLEY **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address wildbill@rexnet.net

Comments Please no rifles for deer hunting in Indiana. There is just to many houses, roads, people, and not enough room to even shoot a rifle.

Comment Received 12/1/2014 6:59:15 AM

Commenter Name Kyle Haeseley

City NEW ALBANY **County** FLOYD **State** INDIANA

E-Mail Address haeselek@gmail.com

Comments I'm elated to finally see the proposed changes on the docket for approval, which I've listed below. The arbitrary parameters, currently defining the available cartridges for hunting deer, are inane. It is ludicrous for these to have been in place for such a long duration. I fully support the proposed modifications, and look forward to hearing positive results of its passing.

(d) As used in section 2 of this rule, this section, and sections 4 through 8 of this rule, a firearm must meet

the following specifications:

(1) A shotgun must have a gauge 10, 12, 16, 20, 28 or .410 bore loaded with a single projectile.

(2) A handgun must:

(A) conform to the requirements of IC 35-47-2 35-47-1-6;

(B) have a barrel at least four (4) inches long;

(C) fire a bullet of two hundred forty-three thousandths (.243) inch diameter or larger; and

(D) not be a rifle that has a barrel less than eighteen (18) inches or is designed or redesigned to be fired from the shoulder.

The handgun cartridge case, without bullet, must be at least one and sixteen-hundredths (1.16) inches long. Full metal jacketed bullets are unlawful. All 25/20, 32/20, 30 carbine, and 38 special ammunition is prohibited.

(3) A muzzleloading long gun must be .44 caliber or larger, loaded with a bullet at least three hundred fifty-seven thousandths (.357) inch or larger. A muzzleloading handgun must be single shot, .50 caliber or larger, loaded with bullets at least .44 caliber and have a barrel at least twelve (12) inches long. The length of a muzzleloading handgun barrel is determined by measuring from the base of the breech plug, excluding tangs and other projections, to the end of the barrel, including the muzzle crown. A muzzleloading gun must be capable of being loaded only from the muzzle, including both powder and bullet.

(4) A rifle must fire a cartridge that meets the following specifications:

(A) Fire a bullet of three hundred fifty-seven thousandths (.357) two hundred fortythree thousandths (.243) of an inch diameter or larger.

(B) Have a minimum case length of one and sixteen-hundredths (1.16) inches.

(C) Have a maximum case length of one and eight-tenths (1.8) inches.

Full metal jacketed bullets are unlawful.

Comment Received 12/1/2014 9:38:09 AM

Commenter Name Nicholas Alles

City Huntington County HUNTINGTON State IN

E-Mail Address naalles@me.com

Comments I would like to request that if this proposal is accepted then new regulations are established governing deer hunting on all state properties due to SECTION 5. 312 IAC 9-3-3 changes barring legal firearms. I currently reside in an area that is surrounded on 3 sides by Roush Lake FWA and would not feel safe with the number of hunters around my property all being allowed to carry High Powered Rifles. I am afraid that there may be more questionable shots taken when the hunter believes that they can shoot 300+ yds. If that is the case it seems impossible for that hunter to know for sure what is behind the target whether it may be another hunter or my house just behind the tree line. I know that if I am attempting a long shot at a coyote I make sure I know exactly where the people I am hunting with are located and what is behind the target but I don't think that could be done for certain when you have no idea where the other hunters are at in the woods. Yes, I know orange is required but it cannot be seen very well from the back side of a tree stand.

My opinion in dealing with this is to make these properties manage deer hunting with draws just as they do in the spring with turkeys. This would vastly limit the chance of hunters or bystanders being injured when the number of hunters is cut from 100's to 10 or 20. Other than that I feel the rule could be adopted as read

Comment Received 12/1/2014 10:04:51 AM

Commenter Name Greg Kuns

City cutler County CARROLL State indiana

E-Mail Address gkuns@fkconst.com

Comments I have strong reservations about section 5 rule changes that allow any rifle of a .243 size or larger. safety is a huge concern with the volume of hunters in my area. I am also concerned that there will be more wounded deer due to poor judgment on the hunters part. I enjoy holding out for a large buck so I am concerned that it will dramatically reduce the trophy buck numbers also. this could be helped by reducing the firearms season to 1 week and moving opening day back to thanksgiving week or later. states that allow rifles for deer hunting normally only have a few days and not 15.

Comment Received 12/1/2014 10:29:37 AM

Commenter Name Jay Kerkhoff

City velpen County PIKE State in

E-Mail Address jkfarms@gmail.com

Comments I do not beleive we need to change from the rifles we are currently using.

Comment Received 12/1/2014 12:12:42 PM

Commenter Name Dave Bauer

City Ingalls County MADISON State IN

E-Mail Address bauer.david@remyinc.com

Comments These rule changes will help to clarify many of the existing rules. The clarification of rifle cartridges allowed for deer hunting is a huge improvement. Using centerfire rifles will it much easier for young hunters and let us better manage our deer herds. Also much easier to understand rather than cartridge length.

Comment Received 12/1/2014 12:42:13 PM

Commenter Name John Scifres

City Indianapolis **County** MARION **State** IN

E-Mail Address j.scifres@sbcglobal.net

Comments I would like to voice my SUPPORT for (LSA #14-453) which amends various rules within 312 IAC 9 such as rules governing deer hunting, nuisance wild animals, cottontail rabbits, wild pigs, birds, reptiles, amphibians, sport fishing. For a complete list of proposed amendments see, the Proposed Rule and Notice of Intent.

Comment Received 12/1/2014 1:12:51 PM

Commenter Name Jeff Valovich

City Chesterton **County** PORTER **State** IN

E-Mail Address jtv2485@gmail.com

Comments I DO NOT support the need for centerfire rifles for deer hunting in this state...we already have effective weapons such as Slug Guns, ML's and certain cartridges....safety is of a concern...esp. in highly populated areas as Porter Co./Lake Co/Marion and others..... the deer herd is dwindling as it is and the use of a more efficient and effect weapon would just add to the further demise of our valued deer herd....many counties are down population wise as it is...I feel the need to further reduce the bonus tags in many counties also...and if "Baiting" should ever come up for discussion as I have heard it may, that idea must be squashed right away...NO BAITING IN INDIANA FOR DEER !! Period !

Comment Received 12/1/2014 2:03:16 PM

Commenter Name Michael T. Harris

City Georgetown **County** FLOYD **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address spectator@twc.com

Comments 9-3-3

I am in favor of the adoption of the rule change to allow rifles of .243 caliber to be used to legally take deer during gun season. The new allowable calibers will be adequate to humanely take deer and in the hands of safe hunters should create no additional safety concerns. Any firearm creates an unsafe condition in the hands of an unsafe hunter. Therefore it is the unsafe hunters we need to address and eliminate. I have a Lifetime Comprehensive Hunting and Fishing License, No.3445, and I have long awaited this welcome change to our deer hunting regulations. Thank you.

Comment Received 12/1/2014 3:59:09 PM

Commenter Name kevin armstrong

City rising sun **County** OHIO **State** in

E-Mail Address armstrongkl@embarqmail.com

Comments Living in southern Indiana, I really think this is a mistake! These local areas of hunting may see 4-5 people hunting an area of 30 acres and more in some cases. And with the terrain considerations to also be put in place of consideration, there is too many irresponsible hunters that don't need the ability to be send bullets the distances that the proposed weapons can shoot or more importantly and be launched over the horizons of the ridges and where they may come to rest is unknown.

I think we have introduced options that are adequate with the pistol cartridge usage, and I would really like the states consideration to do this, be overturned, or consider this only for certain areas and restricted dates.

As a concerned Father and co-hunter I don't want my kids, family and friends in the woods with idiots using these guns.

Comment Received 12/1/2014 4:14:22 PM

Commenter Name Byron Hughes

City French Lick **County** ORANGE **State** IN

E-Mail Address hughesflyer@hotmail.com

Comments We do not need rifles to hunt deer. We have enough cripple deer and we do not need to even kill more deer.

Comment Received 12/1/2014 4:54:20 PM

Commenter Name LARRY GILL

City NEW PARIS **County** ELKHART **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address SUPERAUTO025@GMAIL.COM

Comments With respect to the other species already being hunted with .243 and up: The population of other species hunters no where nears that of the population of deer hunters. Those who hunt coyotes are miniscule to the number of deer hunters. Those that hunt squirrels pigeons, and whatever other flying/tree animal you can think of with .243 and up.... you should lose your privileges to hunt because you are an idiot. By allowing that large of a group of deer hunters (of which there are too many reckless ones) rifles that not only can shoot in excess of 300 yards, but shoot that distance as many as times as the magazine holds and the hunter pulls the trigger is asking for problems. I would love to say that as a majority the hunter movement is safe and we all want to do what is right. Unfortunately that is not right. I've seen too many run and gunners, too many pump it till it drops, and too many hunters that just don't think enough. All in all I would say the current program works. Record deer are harvested every year almost lately. Why risk it. If it isn't broke I say don't fix it.

Comment Received 12/1/2014 5:45:16 PM

Commenter Name Brad Watts

City Commiskey **County** JENNINGS **State** Indiana

<p>E-Mail Address brad.watts58@yahoo.com</p> <p>Comments I fully support the use of rifles .243 caliber and above for deer in the State of Indiana.</p> <p>Comment Received 12/1/2014 10:56:35 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name william young</p> <p>City kokomo County HOWARD State indiana</p> <p>E-Mail Address ywilliam78@yahoo.com</p> <p>Comments No rifles</p> <p>Comment Received 12/1/2014 11:39:55 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Chad Days</p> <p>City Corunna County DEKALB State Indiana</p> <p>E-Mail Address chad@prangerent.com</p> <p>Comments I do not agree with changing size of allowable cartridges shot by a rifle. I feel that the human population of Indiana is to dense and flat to allow such cartridges to be shot.</p> <p>Comment Received 12/2/2014 1:45:46 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Keith Coley</p> <p>City Danville County HENDRICKS State Indiana</p> <p>E-Mail Address keithcoley@yahoo.com</p> <p>Comments Would like to see the rifle cartridges for deer increased to straight cased cartridges only like the .444 and 45/70. I don't feel that Indiana is a good place to be using necked down high powered rifles in mostly populated areas.</p> <p>Comment Received 12/2/2014 4:16:06 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Rodney Sarber</p> <p>City Plymouth County MARSHALL State In</p> <p>E-Mail Address suesarber@yahoo.com</p> <p>Comments reasons not to allow high powered rifles to hunt deer; people cannot even target shoot at the rifles capacity. to many people hunting on small plots of land, bullets will travel onto neighboring property witch is illegal, our terrain is to flat, to many houses and roads, are you willing to risk just one accident for the hopes that you will sell a few more licenses. it's pretty clear that your only after more money. a good ethical hunter, which you try to instill in people in your hunters education classes don't need to be able to shoot 400 yards to harvest a deer. you're trying to use the deer as a target for target practice. you claim a muzzleloader can shoot 500 yards, that's a lot different than a fully loaded 30-06 going off at a running deer. with the advancement in equipment and techniques the need to be able to shoot 500 yards is stupid, the insurance companies complain about having to pay for deer, car accidents, it's not because there are to many deer, it's because there are so many more vehicles on the road as compared to say 15 years ago. I can't remember hearing of a rash of insurance companies going out of business. if the deer population continues to decline at it's current rate, it wont be long until people stop buying a license because there won't be enough deer left to hunt. as for the farmers who complain about crop damage, the deer are taking all of the blame for the raccoons, turkeys, squirrels and everything else. these farmers choose to be farmers no one is holding a gun to their head making them do it, I can't remember seeing a farmer who is worried about where their next meal is coming from. they need to take the good with the bad. allowing high powered rifles for deer hunting is a bad idea. someone will get hurt, think of the city people who get outside of the city limits, and think that they are out in the middle of no where, and you're willing to put a high powered rifle in their hands. please do the right thing, and reject this purposal</p> <p>Comment Received 12/2/2014 9:09:34 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name melanie mcclain</p> <p>City spencerville County DEKALB State indiana</p> <p>E-Mail Address jem1075@gmail.com</p> <p>Comments I am in favor of the use of high power rifles!!!!</p> <p>Comment Received 12/2/2014 11:17:39 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name anthony johnson</p> <p>City elkhart County ELKHART State indiana</p> <p>E-Mail Address loaf1975@gmail.com</p> <p>Comments i support the use of rifles for firearms season. i hunt large fields and the extra accurate range would be beneficial. i know at least in my area it is unlawful to discharge a firearm within the city limits, so hunting with a rifle shouldn't be an issue. i am also all for everyone being required to have taken a hunters safety course.</p> <p>Comment Received 12/3/2014 5:29:43 AM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Billy Raetz</p> <p>City Bristow County PERRY State IN</p> <p>E-Mail Address braetz13@hotmail.com</p> <p>Comments I agree with allowing the use of high powered rifles for deer hunting. I see no issues, especially in the terrain where I hunt. The terrain varies so much locally. One part of the county has flat, farmland, and river bottoms, while the other part of the county has one of the most hilly parts of the state. I also think high powered rifles are more humane, and that we'll see more clean kills, less deer suffering from bad shot placement, or less velocity rounds.</p> <p>Comment Received 12/3/2014 3:24:47 PM</p>

<p>Commenter Name Jammie Chism City Liberty Center County WELLS State IN E-Mail Address Goldwing.1@hotmail.com Comments Thanks for including new calibers for Deer as part of your proposed rule changes. I am in favor of allowing more calibers to take deer during season. .243 thru 30-06 should be allowed. Thanks Comment Received 12/3/2014 3:26:24 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Nolan McGlasson City Hanover County JEFFERSON State Indiana E-Mail Address goatman1964@hotmail.com Comments I would like to offer my support of the proposed deer hunting regulation changes that would allow the use of high-powered rifles during the firearms season. I think this would be a beneficial change for the hunting community. Thanks for your time. Comment Received 12/3/2014 3:28:28 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name James Street City Sellersburg County CLARK State Indiana E-Mail Address jjas3933@aol.com Comments I support the change to hpr. With the same calibers allowed in pistols, I see no reason to not allow those calibers in rifles. Comment Received 12/3/2014 3:30:42 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Jeremy Osterhouse City South Bend County ST. JOSEPH State IN E-Mail Address josterhouse@gmail.com Comments Please approve the rifle proposal. I have been hunting deer as a resident of Indiana for 6 years and would love to see this proposal approved. Thank you for your consideration. Comment Received 12/3/2014 3:30:49 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Eric Lewis City Bloomington County MONROE State IN E-Mail Address Flyforfood99@hotmail.com Comments I support the use of high power rifle cartridges for Indiana deer hunting. High power rifles generally are more accurate than the currently allowed cartridges. This will allow for more accurate shots meaning less pain and suffering on the part of the animals involved, fewer wounded animals and fewer missed shots meaning an increased level of hunting safety. I also support a limit on pan fishing. Comment Received 12/3/2014 3:31:14 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Jason M Faucett City Wilkinson County HANCOCK State Indiana E-Mail Address jasonfaucett@gmail.com Comments I agree with reducing the caliber size for rifle cartridges for deer and I also feel the reduction should not stop at .243, but instead go to .223. This is a very common size for a number of hunting rifles on the market today. Additionally, there are rounds specifically designed for hunting that have the energy left on impact for clean shots. Beyond that, I agree the caliber size should not go down any further, one can only trust in judicious marksmanship so much in the public. Comment Received 12/3/2014 3:31:46 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name David A. Makowsky City Clarksville County CLARK State Indiana E-Mail Address dmakowsky@twc.com Comments I feel the use of high powered rifles is a good change for Indiana. I do not think there needs to be a daily limit on the number of bluegills that can be caught. Comment Received 12/3/2014 3:32:06 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Jason Franklin City Sellersburg County CLARK State Indiana E-Mail Address theace3@gmail.com Comments I for one, DO favor implementing the changes to the Deer Season that would allow the use of high-powered rifles in Indiana. This change is detailed in 312 IAC 9-3-3. I look forward to being able to use such weapons that are totally acceptable in most every other state. It will be a great aid to many youth hunters in that they will have a more effective weapon available to them. Furthermore, I think that we owe it to our game to use these more accurate weapons, as it is my belief that most slug guns and their limited range and accuracy lead to a lot of injured game animals that are never recovered. Please pass this long awaited rule! Comment Received 12/3/2014 3:32:17 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Ted Butz</p>

<p>City Indianapolis County MARION State in E-Mail Address tedbutz@talktotucker.com Comments I would support the proposed rule changes. Comment Received 12/3/2014 3:34:02 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Matt Huhn City Fort Wayne County ALLEN State Indiana E-Mail Address mattjhuhn@gmail.com Comments I support the changes to the rifle regulations for deer hunting. Comment Received 12/3/2014 3:34:25 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Mike Hooper City valparaiso County PORTER State Indiana E-Mail Address hooperwv@gmail.com Comments I support the high power rifle resolution. Comment Received 12/3/2014 3:34:50 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Bob Woodward City Zionsville County BOONE State Indiana E-Mail Address bobwoodward@macallister.com Comments i am in agreement with the changes proposed to the rife equipment to be allowed for deer hunting during gun season, Sec 5 312 IAC9-3-3 d) 4 A i believe that allows anything over .243 but no full metal jacketed bullets. thank you, bob woodward Comment Received 12/3/2014 3:35:40 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Gabriel Hartwig City Lafayette County TIPPECANOE State Indiana Organization (optional) IPCWD E-Mail Address gabrielhartwig88@gmail.com Comments To simplify; I am 100% in favor of all these changes and revisions. Thank you for your time and the opportunity to comment. God bless Comment Received 12/3/2014 3:36:10 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Frank Kulhawick City Winona Lake County KOSCIUSKO State Indiana E-Mail Address fkulhawick@gmail.com Comments 312 IAC 9-3-3: - Change Rile catridge to be like the state of Michigan. Deer Hunting: Allow printed deer hunting license to be a transport tag. Just add date and time of harvest with conformation number. 12 IAC 9-3-18.6: Pigs are an invasive species. Allow dogs, trapping, day or night hunting else Indiana will have a Texas size pig problem. Comment Received 12/3/2014 3:36:32 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name frank bossi City st John County LAKE State Indiana E-Mail Address fb202@sbcglobal.net Comments At 25 bluegills you make it quite easy to cancel my trips south to bluegill fish. Comment Received 12/3/2014 3:37:12 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Jason Pfeiffer City Tell City County PERRY State Indiana E-Mail Address fife@bellsouth.net Comments 312 IAC 9-3-3: YES. ALLOW the use of high-powered rifles such as the .30-30 and .45-70 during the deer firearms seasons. Comment Received 12/3/2014 3:37:53 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Karl Erickson City Granger County ST.JOSEPH State Indiana E-Mail Address karlerickson@comcast.net Comments I am opposed to allowing high powered rifles for deer hunting. The current rule allowing a case length of 1.8" or less and bullet of .358 or less is more than enough fire power. I own 80 acres of land in Marshall county and I would not feel safe knowing my neighbors could use a 30-06 or 270 or 7 mm mag to hunt any where near my property. The current approved rifles, handguns, and shotguns provide all the firepower needed to control the herd. Indiana is a flat agricultural state and not a northern woods state like Michigan or Wisconsin.</p>

Comment Received 12/3/2014 3:38:03 PM

Commenter Name Scott Hottell

City Angola **County** STEUBEN **State** IN **Indiana**

E-Mail Address shottell@msdsc.us

Comments The addition of rifles to the legal weapons for taking deer is not necessary. The pistol cartridge guns are sufficient as are shotguns with rifled barrels. .243, and up have no need in our deer woods

Comment Received 12/3/2014 3:38:05 PM

Commenter Name Matthew Barrick

City Sheridan **County** HAMILTON **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address firefighter6215@hotmail.com

Comments I think rules for opening more rifles during deer season would be ok but I would put a limit on case length. I think sizes like 30-30 45-70 would be welcomed and not much different than what some newer shotguns, muzzleloaders, and current rifles legal for Indiana can do as far as range etc. I do however think sizes larger than 30-06 should not be allowed. I do feel if u open all sizes someone will take unthinkable long shots that should not be attempted. Also I think some consideration should be thought about if larger rifles should be used in public hunting areas with high hunter numbers. Thank you for your time

Comment Received 12/3/2014 3:38:24 PM

Commenter Name Shelby Rumph

City Vallonia **County** JACKSON **State** IN

E-Mail Address brumph@heartlandmedical.com

Comments Bad idea. Enough ways to hunt legal now without added risk. Southern IN too hilly and for instance near Starve Hollow an errant shot over a hill would hit the town of Brownstown. Smaller slower guns like 30-30 would be Ok I guess but please no .243 .270 etc..

Comment Received 12/3/2014 3:38:32 PM

Commenter Name Trevor Wright

City Auburn **County** DEKALB **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address Trevor.wright7@gmail.com

Comments I hope that you will pass the rule on using high powered rifles. I think that it is acceptable for most of Indiana.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 3:38:52 PM

Commenter Name David Hurst

City Boonville **County** WARRICK **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address for-dlh@att.net

Comments I hope never in my lifetime to see high powered rifles used for deer hunting in Indiana . I understand about the smokeless guns but this rule change is a poor idea.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 3:38:52 PM

Commenter Name Jack Laugle

City Sunman **County** DEARBORN **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address mmproto@iquest.net

Comments There are no need for rifles in Indiana. We are not like other states. there is a house every halfmile apart. I own a 700 acre parcel and I see no need for rifles in Indiana. Give the deer a chance. We already let everyone in the wood with the crossbows. There are plenty of weapons out there that shoot 200 yards. past that you really dont know what your shooting at.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 3:39:13 PM

Commenter Name Douglas Shillers

City Floyds Knobs **County** FLOYD **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address douglas.shillers@siemens.com

Comments The use of high powered rifles should NOT be permitted in the state. There are to many unethical/unsafe hunters and this would only compound the issue. There are plenty of legal weapons to use deer hunting without the use of rifles.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 3:39:57 PM

Commenter Name Benjamin O'Neal

City Franklin **County** JOHNSON **State** IN

E-Mail Address boneal@franklincollege.edu

Comments As a whitetail hunter of 20 years and a wildlife biologist, I strongly oppose the use of high-powered rifles for deer hunting in Indiana.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 3:40:10 PM

Commenter Name Alan Lagree

City Loogootee **County** MARTIN **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address lagreex1@hotmail.com

Comments I support all proposed changes, especially in regards to deer hunting changes and coyote hunting changes.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 3:40:26 PM

Commenter Name mark cleveland

City garrett **County** DEKALB **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address jpmachine1@frontier.com

Comments do not allow high power rifle season in Indiana

Comment Received 12/3/2014 3:40:56 PM

Commenter Name Phillip Ferguson

City Mount Vernon **County** POSEY **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address philferglpr@gmail.com

Comments Section 3D4A rifle cartridge allowance of .243 and larger for deer. I somewhat understand the reasoning on allowing center fire rifles given the velocity of new muzzle loaders. However, where I hunt in Pike County, even though quite rural, my .308 can dangerously reach 10 house where my .44 mag rifle can only reach 3 of them, therefore easy to not shoot toward them. There will be individuals that will use even larger higher velocity rounds such as 30-06, 300 win mag., 7 mm Mag., 25-06 which in my opinion will make for a more dangerous scenario in the deer woods. Ricochets and errant shots will be more prevalent. Allowing such cartridges as a 30-30, 35 Remington, traditional deer woods cartridges is reasonable but I am not sure it is wise for high velocity long range cartridges. Also, I hunt Missouri, they allow center fire .224 and up. Why limit the lower end to .243. Of course that eliminates the 5.56 (.223) that many shooters have in the AR platform that will spray many bullets quickly, on target with mild recoil.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 3:41:57 PM

Commenter Name Joe Kmiec

City Highland **County** LAKE **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address jk371175@sbcglobal.net

Comments I oppose using rifle for deer hunting especially on public land due to safety concerns. I also think the shotgun season should be shortened by 1 week.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 3:42:32 PM

Commenter Name Dan Shaver

City Columbus **County** BARTHOLOMEW **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address shaverforestry@yahoo.com

Comments I support the rule changes proposed for the use of rifle cartridges on white-tailed deer and the other changes to update the law and regulations. I would urge the IDNR to consider changing the 35 pound draw weight prescribed in 312 IAC 9-33 Section 3(b)(1) to reflect the speed and power of modern bows. A 35 pound recurve does not deliver the same speed and power as a modern 25 pound compound bow. Lowering the draw weight limit for modern compound bows would permit more women and youth to enjoy hunting and still be effective and ethical in harvesting deer.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 3:42:41 PM

Commenter Name David Scott

City Terre Haute **County** VIGO **State** IN

E-Mail Address djasonscott@gmail.com

Comments 1. RE:312 IAC 9-1-12 "Possession" defined

This should not be changed as it allows for "Possession" to potentially mean anyone with a cage or a fence. Section 2 of that should instead be amended to mean actually having a live wild animal in one's possession.

2. Yes, please, absolutely, adopt the amendments for 312 IAC 9-3-3 Equipment for deer hunting

3. Yes, please extend the fall turkey season in La Porte county

Comment Received 12/3/2014 3:42:53 PM

Commenter Name Vincent steele

City Evansville **County** VANDERBURGH **State** IN

E-Mail Address vjsteele4@gmail.com

Comments I want to voice my approval of the rule change that will allow rifle rounds of .243 and larger. I will now be able to hunt with my son. He can handle a rifle firing a .243 round and this will be a good size for him to learn with. Thank you.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 3:43:48 PM

Commenter Name Dennis Anderson

City Roanoke **County** ALLEN **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address Dennis.Anderson@hp.com

Comments I do not want to see high powered rifles used in Indiana. The Deer population is already shrinking, and allowing high powered rifles would reduce it further. Also, the safety issue is a concern. I like the fact I see bigger deer in Indiana that live longer because of use of shotgun.

I would like to see Indiana change the rule and allow a license you purchased to be used in multiple seasons. So, for example, a shotgun license that is not used should be used in Muzzle loader season.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 3:43:55 PM

Commenter Name JOHN P WILKINSON

City SPENCERVILLE **County** DEKALB **State** INDIANA

E-Mail Address JOHNPWILK@AOL.COM
Comments DON'T ALLOW THE USE OF BIG BORE RIFLES FOR DEER HUNTING. IVE HUNTED DEER EVERY YEAR SINCE 1969 IN INDIANA AND FIND THE CURRENT REGULATIONS GIVE US HUNTERS ALL THE OPTIONS WE NEED. INDIANA DOESN'T HAVE THE WIDE OPEN AREAS REQUIRED FOR ALL THE ADDITIONAL LEAD FLYING AROUND. MOST OF US ARE HUNTING ON SMALL PLOTS OF LAND. THANKS
Comment Received 12/3/2014 3:44:56 PM

Commenter Name Ed Wolfe
City Osgood **County** RIPLEY **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address swolfe818@aol.com
Comments 1. high powered rifles for deer hunting is ridiculous. It will only benefit the retailers. most harvested deer are taken from 20 - 60 yards. stupid rule. I would like to comment on the deer limits, but don't know the proposal? You need to stop the deperbation permits. They have become a slaughter house not a sport. if a farmer cannot afford to lose 5-10 acres of crops, he shouldn't be in farming! Please advise where I can find out more information on the deer bag limits and seasons you mention?
Comment Received 12/3/2014 3:44:58 PM

Commenter Name Michael Hetrick
City Fort Wayne **County** ALLEN **State** IN
E-Mail Address Mikehetrick10@gmail.com
Comments High power rifle amendment, I hear way to many hunters in the woods unloading 5 shots from their shotguns at a single deer, these hunters are obviously do not handle their weapons properly, nor doe they practice. This makes for too many injured deer that are never harvested properly, not to mention their lack of good judgment makes me believe that they will take longer flatter shots causing the projectiles to travel far from where the shooters are looking thus adding more danger to human life than need be. If you must allow them then you should also require a competency test.
Comment Received 12/3/2014 3:45:42 PM

Commenter Name David Schnelle
City Lafayette **County** TIPPECANOE **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address schnelle1@aol.com
Comments I believe the proposed rule change for rifles is a very bad idea. I am a competitive Highpower Rifle Shooter, NRA certified instructor, and previously owned a retail firearms store and indoor range. One of the stated reasons is that they are legal in nearby states and they have seen no increase in accidents. However, in the examples stated, the population density is typically much less than here in most of Indiana. That's the specific reason why in Michigan, they only allow rifle use in the northern half of the state, where it is much less populated. Another stated reason is that muzzleloaders have evolved to a point where they are 500 yard guns. While this is true, the ML hunter has one shot, whereas a rifle hunter under this proposed rule will have many shots at his disposal. From personal experience I have seen many instances of current shotgun hunters firing multiple rounds in rapid succession at running deer. Give those irresponsible people a high powered, magazine fed .308 rifle and I'll be afraid to be in the woods during gun season. I can see no valid reason or advantage for making this rule change. Current equipment is adequate to accomplish the deer management goals of the DNR. As much as I'd like to be able to personally hunt with a high powered rifle, there are many people that are incapable of safely doing so. In summary, I think this is poorly thought out and an irresponsible proposal on the part of Indiana NRC.
Comment Received 12/3/2014 3:45:55 PM

Commenter Name Thomas Cheek
City Dillsboro **County** OHIO **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address tpcheekii@gmail.com
Comments I feel that we have enough hap hazardous hunters with shotguns shoot multiple times at deer moving or non-moving to implement any change to weapons other than what has already been done. I feel anymore high powered rifles would or could cause more accidents with the distance of travel, please consider keeping the rules for gun season the same or limit more high powered rifles to more desolate counties. Thank You,
Thomas Cheek
Comment Received 12/3/2014 3:45:56 PM

Commenter Name Thom Foster
City Terre Haute **County** VIGO **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address thomas.a.foster@ms.com
Comments I support the Bluegill limits. Guys are taking too many out of our most productive waters. This especially needs to be enforced on Ice fisherman who harvest fish by the hundreds, not 25's. I also support the 9 inch limit on Crappie at Dogwood. Great fishing lake that endures very high harvesting.
Comment Received 12/3/2014 3:46:08 PM

Commenter Name Kirt Guthrie
City Middlebury **County** ELKHART **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address kirtguthrie09@comcast.net
Comments While I see the need to enforce a bag limit on sunfish. I feel that the proposed 25(aggregate) limit is a little

discouraging. I think that a bag limit of 50(aggregate) would be more suitable and encouraging to most anglers.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 3:46:10 PM

Commenter Name Randell Gann

City Westville **County** PORTER **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address rgann1969@sbcglobal.net

Comments I certainly understand the potential popularity of utilizing a high powered rifle to hunt whitetail deer with. It would be a humane method of harvesting the animal, if placed in the proper hands. However, my main concern is that there will be the occasion when that doesn't happen. Do you really need to make a shot over 200 yards? Most of my deer have been harvested within 100 yards. The obvious problem that exists is that a projectile from a high powered rifle will undoubtedly have a longer flight path than one from a shotgun, muzzleloading rifle or handgun. Not to mention the fact that some hunters may try to reach out farther than they are capable of shooting accurately. For instance, my 300 Winchester Magnum has a fairly flat trajectory to say 300 yards. But, I can't hold the firearm steady for that long of a shot without a solid rest. If I am off say 3 inches at 100 yards, then I am going to be more than 9 inches off at 300 yards. I could just wound the animal and not make an adequate kill shot. Conversely, with my 44 magnum rifle, I am limited to maybe 150 yards just because of the energy loss and the ability to ethically harvest the animal. Indiana is not that "open" in terms of residential dwelling. So, I would be extremely concerned that there is going to be a higher chance of incidence with high powered rifles than with the present legal firearms. Yes, in the right hands, the harvest of deer should theoretically go up because you can now cover the back 40 from one tree stand. But, hopefully, there is something behind the target to stop the projectile from going further downrange. So, I am riding the fence on this one because frankly, it is a good thing and a bad thing, depending upon who is using the firearm, their abilities, and acknowledgement that they are limited.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 3:46:39 PM

Commenter Name Craig Jarrard

City Middlebury **County** ELKHART **State** IN

E-Mail Address craig.jarrard@ctscorp.com

Comments RE: 9.3.3 (allowing high-powered rifles). I support it, & would suggest that the DNR's Hunting Guide has language to encourage those with these weapons to consider hunting from trees or elevated stands for safety of others that may be near, but out of sight.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 3:47:24 PM

Commenter Name michael brown

City greenwood **County** JOHNSON **State** in

E-Mail Address m07brown@gmail.com

Comments Ruffed grouse in indiana seem to be at critical levels. I have covered much ground in the last 8 years. The places I have hunted were places that used to hold many grouse in the 80s and 90s but now they are almost impossible to find. Turkey use many of the same resources to survive and are posing serious competition to the grouse. I believe they need as much pressure taken off of them as possible. We need more logging to have new forest growth as well. Please close the season.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 3:47:33 PM

Commenter Name steve sterling

City Winchester **County** RANDOLPH **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address ssterling@randolphcentral.us

Comments High powered rifle should be allowed. More humane putting deer down. Your allowing pistol with rifle cartridge that are not as accurate to be used. Most states allow this with no problems. Be good change.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 3:49:15 PM

Commenter Name Brian Caldwell

City Andersonville **County** Out of State **State** Tennessee

E-Mail Address bcaldwell37@comcast.net

Comments I do not agree with the use of all high powered rifles for deer season. I would recommend the use of brush guns i.e.: 30-30, 35 Remington, and 444 marlin, etc. Even though I am from out of state, I have been enjoying deer hunting in Indiana for the last 7 or 8 years. I would also like to recommend more sq. in. of blaze orange if this rule goes into effect.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 3:49:20 PM

Commenter Name Terry Rensberger

City South Bend **County** ST. JOSEPH **State** IN

E-Mail Address rensbergert@gmail.com

Comments Opposed to using rifles in deer season. Properties are too close together in most parts of the state. Safety issue

Comment Received 12/3/2014 3:50:36 PM

Commenter Name Brian Crouch

City Bloomington **County** MONROE **State** IND

E-Mail Address bcrouch@indiana.edu

Comments The use of high power rifle (.243 dia bullet and no max shell case limit) should be allowed, in the state of Indiana, to harvest deer during all proposed

firearm seasons..
Comment Received 12/3/2014 3:50:56 PM
Commenter Name Mark Dillman City Avon County HENDRICKS State Indiana E-Mail Address mddillman@gmail.com Comments I am writing in opposition of including high powered rifles as an allowable weapon with which to take white tailed deer. First, it is a safety issue. I come across so many inexperienced or reckless hunters in the woods that the idea of their carrying high powered rifles is a great safety concern. Additionally, the fact that Indiana's gun season already occurs during peak rutting activity is detrimental to the state's herd health and numbers would be negatively impacted further by the inclusion of high powered rifles as an allowable method for taking deer. Please do not add more rifle options. Please also consider moving the state's gun season two weeks later in the year as our neighboring states of Ohio and Illinois do. It is interesting to note that Ohio, Illinois and Iowa are often cited as destination states for big bucks, which draws more revenue via licenses and related items. Perhaps by moving our gun season out of the peak rutting activity we will allow our male herd to grow to larger status and provide for a greater experience for all.
Comment Received 12/3/2014 3:51:08 PM
Commenter Name George Schmidt City Plainfield County HENDRICKS State Indiana E-Mail Address gschmidt@bellind.com Comments I am in favor of the changes to the firearms equipment rules. In favor of allowing rifle cartridges, bigger than handgun cartridges.
Comment Received 12/3/2014 3:51:19 PM
Commenter Name Ken Deane City Greenwood County JOHNSON State In E-Mail Address k.deane@att.net Comments An accurate 500 yard muzzleloader? I'm skeptical. We already have hunters being shot by idiots who apparently shoot at anything. Do you really want to let them use a 243 WIN that can hit somebody over a mile away?
Comment Received 12/3/2014 3:51:29 PM
Commenter Name Mark Abernathy City Martinsville County MORGAN State Indiana E-Mail Address Mabbey59@sbcglobal.net Comments I am totally in favor of legalizing the use of rifles during firearm deer season.
Comment Received 12/3/2014 3:51:48 PM
Commenter Name David Cates City Syracuse County KOSCIUSKO State IN E-Mail Address davidccates@hotmail.com Comments Excellent start to protecting Indiana's Muskie fishery.
Comment Received 12/3/2014 3:51:49 PM
Commenter Name KEVIN L WALDEN City RUSSIAVILLE County HOWARD State INDIANA E-Mail Address Klwalden24@ymail.com Comments I am all for the use of high power rifles during firearms deer season if they are used from an elevated stand only. I believe it would be too dangerous from the ground when we have county roads every 1/2 mile. Thank you
Comment Received 12/3/2014 3:52:09 PM
Commenter Name Wade Stafford City Alexandria County MADISON State IN E-Mail Address staffordwa@kleencousa.com Comments Being a deer hunter myself and living in Madison county I do not feel that allowing rifles utilizing high powered rifle cartridges will be a safe change for the overall public. As the law currently stands, with the use of pistol cartridges in a rifle, the maximum distance of the bullet is less likely to travel to a range that could hit an indirect target such as a dwelling, person at their dwelling, or potentially livestock. The county I live in, as for most counties around me, has very flat land which will allow for farther travel of a bullet if it does not make contact with the intended target. I feel that this will also increase the amount of animals that are shot illegally after hours by means of a spotlight or from a vehicle. The wound on any animal taken will no longer be identifiable as being taken with a weapon that is illegal to use. I feel like this change being proposed to allow for the use of high powered rifle cartridges .243 dia. and larger should be denied from being approved.
Comment Received 12/3/2014 3:52:31 PM
Commenter Name Tom Steinberger City Logansport County CASS State Indiana E-Mail Address steiny77@hotmail.com Comments I DO NOT SUPPORT the change in firearms restrictions to basically allow most any and all centerfire rifle

cartridges during the general firearms deer season for the following reasons:

- a. Safety. Centerfire rifles travel too far, people and property will be endangered.
- b. Fair chase. This is supposed to be a difficult challenging sport. Too many changes in the last couple decades have made deer hunting increasingly easier.
- c. Heard health. Our deer are over hunted, numbers are down due to both hunting and habitat loss, and they are over harvested and constantly harrassed as is.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 3:52:34 PM

Commenter Name Adam Bauer

City Indianapolis **County** MARION **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address earlgumbo3@gmail.com

Comments As an avid deer hunter, I would like to see the rule governing the allowed calibers for deer hunting expanded to include high powered rifles. The use of these higher calibers will allow for faster, more humane kills for the animals that are harvested. In addition, it will allow for more precision shots to be made since the hunter will no longer need to be within 100 yards of the animal to make a kill shot, and the likelihood of needing to make a shot at a running animal decreases. Indiana's current rules allow for the use of high powered rifles for game such as coyote and other varmint game. This being the case, there should be little concern over expanding this to allow for larger game like deer.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 3:53:07 PM

Commenter Name Jim Deventer

City Garrett **County** DEKALB **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address jnrjdeventer@gmail.com

Comments Dear sirs , I greatly oppose the change to allow high powered rifles to be used for deer hunting in indiana , I have hunted western states with high powered rifles and I feel Indiana is too populated for use of such calibers , I would support leaving things as they are now . The rules we have now seem to be working , I vote we leave it as is . Thanks

Comment Received 12/3/2014 3:53:11 PM

Commenter Name Shawn Upchurch

City Princeton **County** GIBSON **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address shawncathy.upchurch@gmail.com

Comments I completely support the adoption of high powered rifles for deer hunting. This will result in hunters making more ethical kills. Any safety concerns around this proposal are unfounded in data.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 3:53:44 PM

Commenter Name James Phillips

City Plymouth **County** MARSHALL **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address jphillips7102@gmail.com

Comments I have only recently moved back to Indiana since early 2013. I have used high powered rifles to hunt deer in every state that I have lived in. I would like to see Indiana adopt a few select calibers of rifles into their approved deer hunting section. .35, 30-30, and even the popular 30-06 would open a new avenue for hunters to be successful in their deer hunting efforts. These calibers, especially the first two mentioned, have a range only slightly longer than a sabot slug or even a muzzleloader. Today's modern equipment has outpaced the Indiana Code guidelines. Please take this comment under consideration from a Disable Veteran who is much more comfortable with a trusty .35 caliber lever action than a heavy 12 gauge sabot. Respectfully, Jim Phillips

Comment Received 12/3/2014 3:54:14 PM

Commenter Name Jeremy Bous

City Chesterfield **County** MADISON **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address jbousmanjwb1975@aol.com

Comments I would like to say that I am in favor of using high powered rifles to deer hunt.almost every other state allows it and we are behind the times. I've been hunting deer for 30 years and have enjoyed the rule changes allowing us to use new weapons. It allows more children handicap and women to hunt as well as us just having more options. Again me and my family are in favor of the rule change.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 3:54:19 PM

Commenter Name Dan Walstad

City Indianapolis **County** MARION **State** IN

E-Mail Address dano@tnccompanies.com

Comments I would very much like to see a bag limit on panfish here in Indiana. I believe that the limits do work in producing higher numbers of larger fish which is what most every angler is after.

I would also be in favor of changing the restrictions to allow the use of high power rifles in Indiana.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 3:54:42 PM

Commenter Name Joseph pearce

City indianapolis **County** MARION **State** INDIANA

E-Mail Address Josephpearce@sbcglobal.net

Comments I have read the entire list of rule changes. The use of high powered rifles for deer hunting is something that will greatly benefit the average hunter without increasing risk. This rule will make Indiana more competitive with other states for

deer hunting. I am in favor of this rule change. Sincerely Joseph m. Pearce
Comment Received 12/3/2014 3:54:59 PM

Commenter Name Wade Ritchie
City South Bend **County** ST. JOSEPH **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address writchier@sprintmail.com

Comments Regarding pending Rule Proposal 312 IAC 9-3-3, it is my opinion that calibers from .223 Rem and up should be considered lawful firearms for deer hunting. I have read multiple accounts and debates online regarding whether or not the .223 Rem is a capable deer hunting round. In a number of states, the .223 Rem cartridge is perfectly legal for deer hunting. Long-time deer hunters from these states debate their experience exhaustively regarding the .223 Rem issue. Overall, it seems to me that those who oppose using .223 Rem for deer hunting are those who have never tried it. For those hunters who have used a .223 Rem cartridge for deer hunting for years, they proclaim over and over again how the cartridge is sufficient to drop them on the spot as long as the shot is good. Their definition of a "good shot" is the same target zone as any other gun hunter or archer hunter would define as good. A bad shot in a bad target zone is a bad shot regardless of gun hunting or archer hunting. The .223 Rem and 5.56 NATO caliber weapons are among the most commonly owned weapons. With the ease of use and the proper optics, these guns are spot on accurate within their proper range. The 5.56 that I personally own has sub-MOA performance ... 3 round group of .665 at 100 yards with 77 grain match grade ammo. Shot placement doesn't get any better than that. Regardless of the improvements in the guns and the optics over the years, the BIGGEST advance has actually been in the premium bullets. Today's premium bullets penetrate deeper, expand more reliably and stay together better than ever before. Federal Premium alone lists four factory-grade loads appropriate for deer-sized game. These are legitimate, put-it-on-the-shoulder big game bullets that are more than capable for hunting deer. By any means, I am not a ballistics or gun expert ... but I would urge the DNR to consider opening up deer hunting to include .223Rem / 5.56 NATO guns while placing the actual restrictions on the bullets themselves which are allowed for deer hunting purposes. Other permissible guns have ammunition load requirements already in place, so it would not be unprecedented for the DNR to place ammunition load requirements on those hunters who chose to use a .223 Rem / 5.56 NATO gun. Thank you very much for your consideration.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 3:55:14 PM

Commenter Name Tim Foltz
City Roann **County** MIAMI **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address just1874@hotmail.com

Comments I think the current requirements for rifles are just fine and I would not like to see them expanded except to maybe add the .30-30 Winchester and .30 Remington by name. I am not convinced the hunters would still be as safe as they are now. I sit and watch and listen to the hunters and shots fired in my neighborhood and I shudder to think of those people with a 30-06. Populations are down so it should be harder to kill a deer not easier.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 3:55:54 PM

Commenter Name Albert Bowen
City Lanesville, **County** FLOYD **State** Indiana
Organization (optional) Army Security Agency Vets Association
E-Mail Address Bowenaj@aol.com

Comments We stand strongly in support of the proposed amendments to the regulations regarding the uses of center-fire rifles for Deer hunting and the expansion of the the normal Firearms season for the taking of Deer. We encourage the expansion of the on-line registration, sales, tagging, & reporting systems that are currently in effect but not used to their fullest capacity. We also encourage the expansion of the Hunter Safety program to make it available to ALL residents of Indiana in a timely fashion to allow participation by more hunters in each annual series of Hunting activities. Please Vote Yes on these proposed changes. Albert Bowen

Comment Received 12/3/2014 3:56:38 PM

Commenter Name Charles Waggoner
City Bloomfield **County** GREENE **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address Bud123@bluemarble.net

Comments I am in favor of this rule change.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 3:56:40 PM

Commenter Name JAMES R. KECK
City KOKOMO **County** HOWARD **State** INDIANA
E-Mail Address randy_keck@cinfin.com

Comments I am NOT in favor of the approval of high powered rifles for deer hunting. I am a deer hunter and also a homeowner and the idea of someone using a high powered rifle is something I do not like. Our woods are small in nature in the areas I hunt and high powered rounds carry too far. I feel this is a bad idea.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 3:56:53 PM

Commenter Name Charles Waggoner

City Bloomfield County GREENE State Indiana
E-Mail Address Bud123@bluemarble.net
Comments I am in favor of this rule change.
Comment Received 12/3/2014 3:57:19 PM

Commenter Name Chris Bruska
City Orleans County ORANGE State IN
E-Mail Address Chevysrus1@aol.com
Comments Would love to see the rifles allowed. I feel you would get a better shot and more accurate kill with a rifle. As well as ammunition is more affordable. Sabot slogs are ridiculously priced. Thank you for giving the chance to chime in.
Comment Received 12/3/2014 3:57:21 PM

Commenter Name Joel Redmon
City Camden County CARROLL State Indiana
E-Mail Address joelredmon@macallister.com
Comments 312 IAC 9-3-3: Makes the following changes governing deer hunting equipment:
 I am against this section of the rule change:
 I believe we can adjust the list to include "Rimmed" rifle cartridges of .243 in diameter or larger. This would include the 30-30 and the .35 Remington cartridges. Rimless, semi-rimmed, rebated rim, and belted would not be allowed that does not meet the current allowed specification. The older style "Rimmed" cartridges are more inline with the types of firearms we currently use without the need of custom aka "Wildcat" rounds. Our open landscape does not allow the safe use of more longer range rounds.
Comment Received 12/3/2014 3:57:27 PM

Commenter Name Dwain Fields
City Seymour County JACKSON State Indiana
E-Mail Address dfields@centralsheetmetalco.com
Comments 312 IAC 9-3-3: I would be supportive of high power rifles being legal for deer hunting...especially the 30-30 Winchester caliber and 45-70 Government Caliber. I have a little concern about calibers such as 30-06 and .308 and similar ballistic calibers due to their very long range capabilities.
Comment Received 12/3/2014 3:57:31 PM

Commenter Name Terry West
City Aurora County DEARBORN State IN
E-Mail Address Hoosierman666@gmail.com
Comments What about the new lures that look like a small school of fish?

312 IAC 9

7

2 Sport fishing methods, except on the Ohio River
 Authority: IC 14

10

2

4; IC 14

22

2

6

Affected: IC 14

22

Sec. 2. (a) Except as provided under section 16 of this rule with respect to the Ohio River, this section governs the lawful methods for fishing under this rule.

(b) An individual may take fish with the aid of illumination of any of the following:

(1) A spotlight.

(2) A searchlight.

(3) An artificial light.

(c) An individual may take fish with not more than three (3) poles, hand lines, or tip

ups at a time. Except as provided in subsections (g) and (k), an individual must affix to each line or pole not more than two (2)

(1) three (3) hooks or two (2) artificial baits or harnesses for use with live bait.

(2) three (3) artificial lures; or
(3) a combination of hooks or artificial lures not to exceed a total of three (3).

Comment Received 12/3/2014 3:57:39 PM

Commenter Name Richard Bryant
City Fort Wayne **County** ALLEN **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address rab.li@live.com

Comments I applaud the rule change and believe it is a long time coming. I look forward to the new rules taking place in Indiana to allow responsible hunters the choices allowed in many other states. I am glad it was proposed and look forward to its adoption.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 3:58:34 PM

Commenter Name Rodney Nissley
City Pierceton **County** WHITLEY **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address nisslerk@grace.edu

Comments My comment is on the proposed change to the legal firearms for deer. I am in favor of the change as long as the DNR closely monitors the impact on harvest numbers. It is my opinion that the deer herd has been reduced significantly due to liberal bonus tag numbers as well as the blue tongue outbreak. I think we need to allow the herd to recover and I am afraid that rifles may increase the harvest thereby reducing numbers further.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 3:58:49 PM

Commenter Name Richard Dilbeck
City Charlestown **County** CLARK **State** IN
E-Mail Address richard10803@gmail.com

Comments Strongly approve the change to 313IAC 9-3-3, Equipment for deer hunting. Use of .30 cal rifles is long overdue. Will not increase risk over present use of sabot slugs in shotguns.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 3:58:53 PM

Commenter Name Gary Colasessano
City Indianapolis **County** MARION **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address colasessanoesq@aol.com

Comments I fully support these proposed rule changes and hope the State implements them for enforcement in 2015.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 3:59:19 PM

Commenter Name Steven Johnson
City Clarks Hill **County** TIPPECANOE **State** IN
E-Mail Address win32special@frontier.com

Comments I encourage the rule change as stands with emphasis on rifle calibers for hunting Deer. high powered rifles are used for coyote hunting consistently thank you for your consideration.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 4:00:08 PM

Commenter Name David Walter
City Kendallville **County** NOBLE **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address cgwalter@ligtel.com

Comments Please do not allow the use of rifles using a .243 caliber bullet or larger. Leave the rule as is stating that a .357 or larger caliber bullet can only be used. Do not strike the maximum cartridge (or brass as it is commonly referred to) length/size. Changing the rules to allow a .243 bullet with a longer cartridge (which means more powder) will create a very dangerous situation in our state and could put the lives of other hunters, non-hunters or even livestock at risk of being struck by stray bullets that can travel over one mile.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 4:00:11 PM

Commenter Name Clay Bovard
City Sunman **County** DEARBORN **State** IN
E-Mail Address c_bovard@hotmail.com

Comments I would like to comment on the allowance of high powered rifles for the future deer seasons. I would definitely

be in favor of allowing high powered rifles provided the safety data from states that already allow high powered rifles proves that rifles are just as safe as shotguns and muzzle loaders. I have young sons and would not feel comfortable with them in the woods if rifles make it less safe than shotguns or muzzle loaders. I assume someone has looked at this data already and feels comfortable that rifles pose no more of a safety risk than current firearms allowed in Indiana.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 4:02:06 PM

Commenter Name brian bronson

City kokomo **County** HOWARD **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address sbronson08@comcast.net

Comments I think it would be great to have the opportunity to harvest deer with a high power rifle!

Comment Received 12/3/2014 4:03:10 PM

Commenter Name DAVID PAUL HARTMAN

City Decatur **County** ADAMS **State** INDIANA

E-Mail Address dhartman@hartmanbrothers.com

Comments I do not believe that we need to use High Power Rifles for deer my reasons are

1 Our homes are to close to each other and splitting parts of the state only makes it harder to understand

2 Most shotguns and muzzle loaders already have a range of 200 yards its just not that hard to get a deer within 200 yards of you.

3 I understand we need more people hunting fish and the likes to sustain the wildlife funding but I think there are better ways than this if that is the intent of this change.

4 For safety reason at any given time driving down our roads and seeing people sitting in there tree stands hunting I believe it should stay the way it is if I can see them than they could easily hit someone driving or walking on the road.

Thanks

David Hartman

Comment Received 12/3/2014 4:03:31 PM

Commenter Name James Rothel

City Cincinnati **County** Out of State **State** OH

E-Mail Address jwreng@gmail.com

Comments I agree with & encourage passage of the expanded definition of allowable rifle cartridges for use in the deer hunting gun season.

These cartridges are normally considered "deer cartridges" in most states.

Hunter safety will not be impaired.

Humane harvesting of deer will be continued.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 4:03:42 PM

Commenter Name Kevin Ferguson

City Fort Wayne **County** ALLEN **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address kferguson8@icloud.com

Comments I fully support rule changes to allow the use of center fire rifles for deer hunting in Indiana. I feel that allowing rifles will improve lost game and produce more accurate and humane kills. I also do not feel that use of normal rifle cartridges would affect safety. I would support limitations on rifle cartridges to allow only short action caliber cartridges such as .243, 30-30, 308, 260, 7mm-08 to name a few but not allow magnum cartridges or long action such as the 270 and 30-06

Comment Received 12/3/2014 4:03:47 PM

Commenter Name Keith McWhorter

City Depauw **County** HARRISON **State** IN

E-Mail Address kwmcwhorter@gmail.com

Comments I am in full support of allowing rifles .243 and larger during the deer firearms seasons!

Comment Received 12/3/2014 4:03:51 PM

Commenter Name Matt Nees

City Reelsville **County** PUTNAM **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address mtnees@gmail.com

Comments I agree whole heartedly that ruffed grouse should not be hunted in Indiana. What population that is left is so small, that I feel like the ruffed grouse is about to be extinct in Indiana. My kids and future grandkids will never have the joy of hearing a ruffed grouse drum in the woods if hunting isn't barred. We also need to look into habitat reconstruction for not just grouse, but quail and pheasant in Indiana as well. I am totally AGAINST allowing any cartridge over .243 for hunting deer. It was always said Indiana was to flat and populous to allow such a long range and flat shooting calibers for hunting. What has changed? Indiana's population isn't getting smaller and the last time I looked, I didn't see any mountains forming in the corn fields of Indiana. If those calibers are allowed, hunting on public land for deer will be even more dangerous than it already is and someone is likely to get hurt or even worse. Correct me if I'm wrong, but haven't deer hunters been breaking

records each year on deer numbers taken? Why do people need to kill a deer at 400 yards? It doesn't seem like Indiana deer hunters need any more help or advantage on killing deer. Please think of safety of all hunters so we continue having fun and safe deer hunting seasons.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 4:03:55 PM

Commenter Name steven gillette

City redkey **County** JAY **State** in

E-Mail Address mossyhead79@gmail.com

Comments I think high power rifle rule is going to endanger people's lives its bad enough setting in a woods now and having to worry about getting shot by a stray slug coming from someone that is trying to shoot a deer 200 yards from them on a dead run that they missed with they first shot so they totally unload the gun in a desperate attempt to kill a deer if any rule b change s should be made there should be a limit just like for turkey a limit on how many shells a gun can hold we need to make hunting safer and more enjoyable for our kids not more dangerous

Comment Received 12/3/2014 4:04:09 PM

Commenter Name ROY M GOODMAN

City BLOOMINGDALE **County** PARKE **State** IN

E-Mail Address RDGMAN@WILDBLUE.NET

Comments I HOPE DNR DOS NOT APPROVE HIGH POWERED RIFLES .243 AND LARDGER FOR HUNTING DEER. TJE BULLETS TRAVEL TOO FAR.

I LIVE IN RUAL PARKE COUNTY AND HAVE HUNTERS ALL ROUND MY HOUSE. I AM THINK IT TOO DANJEROUS. PEOPLE AND HOUSE WILL GET SHOT,

WE ARE TOO POUPLATED TO ALLOW THIS KING OF WAEPON. THE PISTOL CARTRIDGE IS FINE. AND I HAVE EEN A DEER HUNTER FOR 30

PLUS YEARS AND STILL AM. THIS RULE COULD MAKE IT A LITTLE SCARY TO HUNT.

THANKS

Comment Received 12/3/2014 4:04:26 PM

Commenter Name MICHAEL A JACKSON

City BLUFFTON **County** WELLS **State** IN

E-Mail Address majackson@jjacksonco.com

Comments Since some counties have limited river otters they should not be trapped.

Wells County limit on antlerless deer to only the last 4 days of hunting season makes it difficult to fill the bundle license as well as bonus. I will limit my license purchase next year due to this limitation.

Higher caliber guns should be allowed in Indiana.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 4:04:52 PM

Commenter Name Gerald Mears

City Indianapolis **County** MARION **State** IN

E-Mail Address gmears@ngc.aero

Comments LSA Document #14-453:

I am very much in favor of allowing rifles to be able to use .243 diameter and up cartridges during deer season.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 4:04:58 PM

Commenter Name Kevin McCullough

City Greencastle **County** PUTNAM **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address kevinmc@hughes.net

Comments I am in favor of these rule changes!

Comment Received 12/3/2014 4:05:09 PM

Commenter Name Tom Steinberger

City Logansport **County** CASS **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address steiny77@hotmail.com

Comments I DO SUPPORT PUTTING A BAG LIMIT ON PANFISH.

Would recommend max (25) total pansfish per legal / licensed fishermen. This should be an aggregate limit to include any combination of; crappie, bluegill, redear, sunfish, rock bass, warmouth, etc.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 4:05:27 PM

Commenter Name Gary Bradley

City Avon **County** HENDRICKS **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address bgbradley@sbcglobal.net

Comments Hello, I travel to Jefferson and Bullit county kentucky every year (I grew up there) and they allow me to use my 30-30 rifle. The area I hunt in Kentucky is no more populated than Indiana and there is minimal if any risk of an incident, and certainly no more than in Indiana. The only difference is that I annually spend \$180.00 to kill a Kentucky deer, plus processing, plus retail items, perhaps all said and done, I support Kentucky wildlife efforts annually to the tune of \$500.00. I am 55 years old, and I have never ran into an irresponsible rife hunter that wouldn't be just as irresponsicible if they were

shooting a shotgun or a muzzle loader or even crossbow. I hope that this rule is changed, if for no other reason than it will allow me to spend my money at home and support the Hoosier state, its people, its wildlife... Thank you
Comment Received 12/3/2014 4:05:55 PM

Commenter Name Darrell J. French
City morgantown **County** MORGAN **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address french4401@gmail.com
Comments I completely agree with adopting rifle calibers .243 and larger.
 I do not believe there is any additional dangers to adopting this change.
 I do believe there will be increased probability of harvesting the Deer.
Comment Received 12/3/2014 4:06:11 PM

Commenter Name Marvin Campbell
City Spencer **County** OWEN **State** IN
E-Mail Address campbellclan@bluemarble.net
Comments I do not support the use of high power rifle cartridges to hunt deer in Owen County. I support hunting 100%, however, I don't feel the use of rifles with long range bullets is safe in a populated area like I live in. IDNR has made a lot of sensible laws in Indiana and I thank you for that. A lot of lead files around here during deer season and I would like to see the law remain with shorter range weapons.
Comment Received 12/3/2014 4:06:31 PM

Commenter Name Scott Sparks
City anderson **County** MADISON **State** IN
E-Mail Address ssparks@callcarpenter.com
Comments I agree with including high powered rifles as legal weapons to hunt deer in Indiana.
Comment Received 12/3/2014 4:07:30 PM

Commenter Name Nolan Arihood
City Nineveh **County** BROWN **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address arihoodn@hotmail.com
Comments I am in agreement with the changes in rule 312 IAC 9-3-3 with the changes made for larger cartridge case lengths for rifles
Comment Received 12/3/2014 4:07:48 PM

Commenter Name Ron Ruzewski
City Mooresville **County** Out of State **State** North Carolina
E-Mail Address rruzewski@aol.com
Comments I do not strongly oppose the use of rifles, but I don't understand the purpose of allowing them. The max effective range of modern slug guns, muzzle loaders, and rifles using pistol cartridges is about 200 yards. Rifles move that to 400+ and further. Understood the skill set of the individual needs to be in place for both, but the mindset is that the effective range has increased. I have lived, and currently live in an area where rifles are legal. The potential for less responsible and ethical kills/shot attempts is increased with the use of rifles. I have seen first hand "if I can see it, I can shoot it" mentality. I think it could be considered in areas that have less farm land (like some states do). I don't see the need for the addition of the rifle option considering the current options already available.
Comment Received 12/3/2014 4:07:53 PM

Commenter Name Dennis Schreiner
City Portage **County** PORTER **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address bowhunter911@msn.com
Comments Please do not allow high powered rifles to hunt deer in Indiana, high powered rifles are for hilly or mountainous states, NOT for states with flat land with houses and other buildings everywhere like Indiana has. i have hunted Indiana for over 35 years and i can not even believe that is rule was proposed. i love flat shooting high powered rifles and own several but i only shoot them at the rifle ranges with a proper back stop.
Comment Received 12/3/2014 4:09:05 PM

Commenter Name KEN PORTER
City GROVERTOWN **County** STARKE **State** INDIANA
E-Mail Address porterbucks@hotmail.com
Comments no additional rifles to be used in deer hunting.
 no to deer firearm season starting on 1st Saturday after the 11th, should be second Saturday.
 u people have ruined deer hunting in this great state!
Comment Received 12/3/2014 4:09:09 PM

Commenter Name David Dwyer
City Columbus **County** BARTHOLOMEW **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address ddwyerfire@comcast.net
Comments I support the proposed changes allowing the use of .243 and larger high powered rifles for deer hunting. I do not feel the danger to the public is increased by the use of high powered rifles to hunt deer. I would appreciate the passage

of these rule changes.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 4:09:35 PM

Commenter Name Christopher Cherrone

City Lakeville **County** ST.JOSEPH **State** IN

Organization (optional) Mr.

E-Mail Address christophersr@myself.com

Comments I've heard all the arguments and still don't see the logic behind prohibiting the .308 rifle or pistol for deer hunting. They are allowed many other places and are preferred over many other calibers. Proper precautions would have to be taken as with any other firearm caliber.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 4:11:20 PM

Commenter Name Isaac Dorrel

City Brookville **County** FRANKLIN **State** IN

E-Mail Address isaacdorrel@gmail.com

Comments Allowing deer hunting with rifles is not necessary, therefor I am opposed to this rule change.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 4:11:25 PM

Commenter Name Kenny Perkins

City north verna **County** JENNINGS **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address kenny.perkins@tiem.toyota-industries.com

Comments i would like to see this put in to law the high power rifles are a good thing

Comment Received 12/3/2014 4:12:27 PM

Commenter Name Adam Phelps

City Bedford **County** LAWRENCE **State** IN

E-Mail Address eudypes@ghostwoodfarm.com

Comments I completely support all of the deer changes, but in particular I support the change to allow centerfire high-powered rifles for deer hunting. These calibers are already legal for most other hunting, and are legal for deer hunting (when used in handguns). They are no more dangerous than 12 gauge slugs or muzzleloader sabots bouncing through the woods. Thank you.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 4:13:25 PM

Commenter Name Greg Cook

City Butlerville **County** JENNINGS **State** IN

E-Mail Address gcook@seidata.com

Comments all is good for rifles except some of the larger ones like 30-06 and magnums. also only on private property. great job on bluegill limit. they have been abused on numbers kept for years. crappie also should have state wide 9 inch limit.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 4:13:38 PM

Commenter Name mark ver steeg

City trafalgar **County** JOHNSON **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address mversteeg@drivehubler.com

Comments i do not support the use of high powered rifles in the state of indiana.we have enough ways to harvest a deer at this time.i am an avid hunter and fisherman and welcome new oportunities but dont feel high powered rifles will be benificial to our deer management.

thank you for the opprotunity to comment

mark ver steeg

Comment Received 12/3/2014 4:14:06 PM

Commenter Name Jonathan Nolting

City Elizabethtown **County** BARTHOLOMEW **State** Indiana

Organization (optional) N/A

E-Mail Address jpnolting@gmail.com

Comments I would like to submit my comments for consideration regarding the following Rule Proposals:

312 IAC 9-3-2 - I do not agree with adding the words "before its repeal" to the Lifetime Hunting License rules. This leaves it open for the State to remove the Lifetime License from the current license system; inherently removing any validity to the current Lifetime Hunting Licensees. I feel this would undermine the integrity of the State & NRC. It is unfair to those who paid a large sum of money to purchase a lifetime license if it is repealed. It is obvious that the NRC has unfortunately repealed the Lifetime Hunting License and there is no reason to include this language in the proposed rules.

312 IAC 9-3-3 - I agree that Indiana should allow rifle calibers of .243 and larger to hunt white-tailed deer in Indiana. It is my understanding that it is no less dangerous to hunt deer with a muzzle loader, shotgun or current legal rifle caliber than it is to hunt with a rifle with a cartridge of .243 in diameter or larger. This will also allow more opportunity for hunters to harvest deer in Indiana.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my opinions.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 4:14:32 PM

Commenter Name Drew Schepman

City crothersville **County** JENNINGS **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address dschepman80@gmail.com

Comments It is hard for me to believe that you are trying to legalize any rifle. First of all in our area it is way to flat and to populated for high power rifles some will get killed. Another thing is we don't have enough game wardens to do the job now. So when you do this we will have people driving around shooting deer off the road with high powered rifles it won't be safe to be in the woods. If what you want is to kill more deer you need to make it so people have you shoot a doe before they shoot a buck. Thank you for taking my comments I hope you make the smart decision.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 4:14:56 PM

Commenter Name James Shema

City Hebron **County** PORTER **State** IN

E-Mail Address jimkath@netnitco.net

Comments I am strongly in favor of the proposed rule change to allow centerfire rifles in deer firearm season.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 4:16:19 PM

Commenter Name walter w.selby

City vincennes **County** KNOX **State** indiana

E-Mail Address wselmarg@att.net

Comments i dont see any thing wrong with high caliber rifles.seems like it would be safer than large caliber handguns.tat will shoot thru brush and heavy cover.the rifle buillet will just blow up when it hits a limb or any object with going thru.rather have some one shot at me with a 270 thru woods than a 12 ga. slug gun.....

Comment Received 12/3/2014 4:16:32 PM

Commenter Name Steve Burress

City Madison **County** JEFFERSON **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address evetsss67@gmail.com

Comments Please do not allow military style weapons to be used in hunting.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 4:17:08 PM

Commenter Name Joel A Adank

City Crown Point **County** LAKE **State** in.

E-Mail Address spadelugs@sbcglobal.net

Comments As a deer hunter 30 years in the state of Indiana, I do not believe there should be any law proposing the use of high-powered rifles in this state. We do not have room to use high-powered rifle. A rule change in my honest opinion would be putting at risk hunters conservation officers homeowners and the general public
Sincerely Joe Adank Crownpoint Indiana

Comment Received 12/3/2014 4:18:46 PM

Commenter Name Seward Horner

City Wakarusa **County** ELKHART **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address sewardhorner@gmail.com

Comments I do not feel any changes need to be made to the legal firearms, specifically those allowing high powered rifles, in this state. Deer hunters in Indiana have been using "shotguns" for a long time with plenty of success. Modern shotguns and muzzleloaders offer plenty of effective range without travelling distances that can become dangerous. There is not a need to add high powered rifles to the list of legal equipment. It will not likely change the harvest numbers much and can lead to dangerous situations. My main concern is the ranges with which projectiles from these rifles travel. The statement in the position that modern muzzleloaders can travel 500 yards may be true but they are not widely used because of the obvious drawbacks of muzzleloaders - one shot, etc. Hunters using muzzleloaders also tend to be more aware of thier shot as they generally only have the one. The lack of high powered rifles is also not an issue preventing participation in the sport of deer hunting. As stated before since "shotgun only" has long been in effect, those interested in hunting deer would have already purchased shotguns. In addition most of the hunting in Indiana is done on fairly small plots of land - probably 100-200 acres or less. The only reason that a high powered rifle is needed for deer hunting would be be for shots of 300-400 yards. In Indiana the need to shoot deer at 300-400 yards is fairly rare and shots of that distance would likely cross property lines. The statement that accidents have not greatly increased in other states is pointless. One death or injury is to many for a rule that is not even remotely necessary. I already feel unsafe at times in the woods due to the close proximity of other hunters on an adjacent property. Now I have to be concerned about a hunter a 1/2 mile off shooting high velocity rounds which can ricochet through the woods undpredictably This proposed change does not serve deer hunters but rather a vocal minority of gun "lovers" who want to use their high powered rifles. In my 25 years of deer hunting I can not think of an instance where I was not able to shoot a deer I wanted to shoot becuase I did not have a high powered rifle. I may have had to be more patient and wait for it to get closer or adjust my hunting postion but a high powered rifle was not necessary. All the deer I have taken and those I have hunted with have been at 75 yards or less. Changes should only be made to regulations when there is a clear, significant benefit. I do not see a benefit of any signifigance to this change.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 4:18:59 PM

Commenter Name TED ABRAMS

City MONTICELLO **County** WHITE **State** INDIANA

E-Mail Address TEDA@PWRTC.COM

Comments In regards to changing the rifle rule for deer hunting, I believe it would be in the best interest of the public if large caliber rifles be bolt action, pump, lever or single shot only. Also I feel that shooting large caliber rifles from ground blinds is not in the best interests for public safety, when shooting from a raised stand the trajectory of the bullet is down.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 4:19:14 PM

Commenter Name Jeffrey Eyer

City Bruceville **County** KNOX **State** IN

E-Mail Address jeyer1949@gmail.com

Comments I agree with the proposal of the use of high powered rifles during the firearm season. Rifles allow for greater accuracy and can be used by younger hunters in suitable calibers to reduce recoil as compared to slug guns and muzzleloaders. Regardless of the weapon used, it is the responsibility of the hunter to make sure of a target and the background.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 4:19:24 PM

Commenter Name jared beard

City hoagland **County** ALLEN **State** indiana

E-Mail Address jared-beard@hotmail.com

Comments I do not see any necessity to allowing high powered rifles for deer hunting. There are multiple arguments against it. Many of the currently legal firearms are capable of shooting over 200 yards accurately, and that is an adequate max effective range for deer hunting, especially in the flat terrain where I hunt. Allowing high powered rifles that can go even further than currently legal firearms increases the risk of stray bullets flying across the landscape. If these rifles are legalized, I would hope that the DNR would shorten the firearms season.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 4:20:04 PM

Commenter Name Kuldip Wadhwan

City Worthington **County** GREENE **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address kuldipwadhwan@hotmail.com

Comments I don't think hunting with high powered rifle should be allowed. Ammunition like .243 and larger travels very far and can kill up to the range of 300 yards. There are too many risks involved if we are to allow individuals to hunt with high powered rifles.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 4:22:06 PM

Commenter Name Daniel Linn

City Niles **County** Out of State **State** Michigan

E-Mail Address Dlinn@nilesmi.org

Comments I would like to see the NRC allow baiting of deer, for some of the folks that don't have a good source to bring deer close enough to get a good clean shot, as I have had seen deer being shot by new hunters and them making bad shots, it would allow the new hunters be able to calm themselves down and make better shots, and it would be nice to start a supplemental feeding programs to help the herd.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 4:22:42 PM

Commenter Name Ron Williams

City Fort Wayne **County** ALLEN **State** IN

E-Mail Address rnw@fwnc.com

Comments I support these changes but would like to see rifle cartridges perhaps limited to some maximum velocity so as to limit distance which was the reason to prohibit rifles in the first place. Also, WHY IN THE WORLD CANT WE HUNT TURKEYS WITH SINGLE PROJECTILES OF SOME SPECIFIED CALIBER LIMITS??!! EVEN A MUZZLELOADING RIFLE WOULD BE FINE. OR A PISTOL LIKE WE DID FOR DEER. I AM TIRED OF BLASTING THE HELL OUT OF TURKEYS AND DESTROYING GOOD MEAT AND MAYBE MAIMING THEM. GIVE ME THE CHANCE TO BE ACCURATE AND HUMANE WITH A RIFLE, HANDGUN OR MUZZLE LOADED RIFLE!!!! OTHER STATES DO!! IF I CAN'T HIT A TURKEY HEAD AT 100 YDS WITH A RIFLE THEN I DON'T DESERVE TO KILL IT.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 4:23:08 PM

Commenter Name Albert Trajkovski

City Winamac **County** PULASKI **State** IN

E-Mail Address atandt3k@hotmail.com

Comments Please allow high powered rifles to be used during deer season. Even if it is a separate season, or in combination with the current firearm season. Use the same restrictions to cartridge caliber that other states that allow rifles for deer season.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 4:23:53 PM

Commenter Name Robert Warne

City Roselawn **County** NEWTON **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address bwarne@wilsonindustrial.com

Comments Not in favor of the change to the rifle cartridge I believe it should remain with a maximum case length of (1.8) inches. the area I live in and hunt is to populated for a larger casing and not needed.

<p>Comment Received 12/3/2014 4:25:08 PM</p> <p>Commenter Name David Miles City Evansville County VANDERBURGH State Indiana E-Mail Address dmiles@insightbb.com Comments Do not need to add additional firearm calibers Comment Received 12/3/2014 4:25:32 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Martin Ingram City montpelier County BLACKFORD State Indiana E-Mail Address martin@muncleaviation.com Comments I am all in favor of this rule change. It seems to be very well thought out. If it were not legal and safe, then they should be disallowed for all hunting. Which would be foolish. Hats off to you folks for proposing this rule change. Comment Received 12/3/2014 4:25:34 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Christina Sutton City Greendale County DEARBORN State Indiana E-Mail Address juniorbud8@hotmail.com Comments I am commenting to say that I am for the change of caliber for high power rifles. You can shoot at least 300 yards with a .50 caliber inline muzzleloader, so what's the difference with a high power rifle. It won't draw new hunters, just because of the lift on these. And hopefully it will reduce the number of animals wounded and not found with a higher caliber gun. I do also think that the doe tags per county should be reduced. 6 or 7 does is a bit excessive, espically with the new guns allowed to be used. People will shoot from farther away and be able to take more deer. I am seeing the ratio from bucks to does increase, unlike before when you saw does all the time and hardly any bucks. Comment Received 12/3/2014 4:26:39 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name James R. Howell City Montpelier County BLACKFORD State IN E-Mail Address rando7@live.com Comments I am totally in support of allowing center fire rifles of .243 caliber and above for deer hunting. Comment Received 12/3/2014 4:27:59 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Mike Mong City Hartford City County BLACKFORD State Indiana E-Mail Address mikemong@indianaooxygen.com Comments I think this is a terrible idea. The deer population is already down and hurting the hunting in Indiana. People will wound more deer thinking they can shoot farther not knowing what they are shooting through. The main thing i am worried about is this rule change will get people hurt or killed in Indiana. If this rule change happens i will not hunt during gun season or take my young son out to hunt in fear of getting shot. I am NOT for this rule change at all. Thank You for listening. Comment Received 12/3/2014 4:28:12 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Alex Seward City Evansville County VANDERBURGH State Indiana E-Mail Address alex.seward@nm.com Comments In regards to high powered rifles..</p> <p>I am for the vote of ability to use high powered rifles. It always amazed me that hunting was restricted to pistol rounds, slugs, and muzzles in Indiana. I have heard a huge inconsistency for why rifles are not allowed. Ultimately, it boiled down to the bullet being able to travel further and faster than the others.</p> <p>Though this may be true, there are certain attributes of that argument that should make it more appealing. Being a seasoned hunter from Texas, one thing that immediately got my attention is hearing people say they "couldn't find the deer they shot". Over the 18 years I hunted in Texas, I can count on one hand the amount of times I have heard that phrase.</p> <p>In my opinion, a gun being dangerous boils down to how the individual is taught. Once again, I have heard far more hunting incidents here than I ever had before. I don't know if it's due to hunters safety courses or bad parenting. Regardless, rarely any of these incidents I hear of are from a firearm. Usually falling out of stand is the culprit. Which leads to my next point. I have not once been in a hunting situation where my target is horizontal or above me from my shooting position. Most hunters feel more dominant/camo'd if they are above their target. Meaning the bullet travels in a downward motion.</p> <p>Slugs/ Muzzleloads are not constructed the same as a high speed bullet. If your slug/muzzleload hits a tree at a angle then it bounces aimlessly. Try the same thing with a bullet. The bullet is meant to become mangled once impact and would completely destroy the velocity of the object.</p> <p>Those are my 2 cents... Statistics are created from people, and unfortunately we are all people. In my opinion, a majority of those people are careless idiots whose roll in life is to contribute toward those statistics.</p> <p>Alex Seward</p>

Comment Received 12/3/2014 4:29:28 PM

Commenter Name Chase Meeks

City North Webster **County** KOSCIUSKO **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address chasemeeks@gmail.com

Comments I support the use of high powered rifles as stated in Section 5 of the proposed rule.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 4:30:00 PM

Commenter Name Paul Broderick

City Martinsville **County** MORGAN **State** IN

E-Mail Address proctodoc55@hotmail.com

Comments Life long Hoosier, lifetime license holder.

Great work! Refreshing changes!

My one concern is that the deer rifle changes may attract unwanted attention from the Anti-"assault rifle" crowd. Meaning, some consideration may be given to language pertaining to magazine capacity. Some will say "do we need a weekend enthusiast in the woods with an AR-10 or AK-47 w/ 30 round mag..?" Just thinking of how to not give the Antis any fuel. I doubt that Hoosier sportsmen would have an issue with 10 round max. Maybe these have been debated. Thanks for the opportunity comment. Keep up the good work!

Comment Received 12/3/2014 4:30:27 PM

Commenter Name Gary Bowers

City Warsaw **County** KOSCIUSKO **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address jugabowers@embarqmail.com

Comments Section 22 312 1AC 9-7-4 Add to Kosciusko county lakes Barbee Chain, Tippecanoe and James Lake 4C) raise size limit to 50" Section 24 312 1AC 9-7-9 Bag limit of crappie state wide 15 fish at a minum of 9" Also walleye size should be 16" state wide.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 4:31:25 PM

Commenter Name Mike Tricker

City Ladoga **County** MONTGOMERY **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address mtricker@southmont.k12.in.us

Comments Please consider that safety of Deer Hunters and vote NO on any amendments to the use of high-powered rifles during deer hunting season. I am a hunter and enjoy hunting. When I hear 5 shots already during Gun season, if high-powered rifles and the distance that they travel, concerned that has the potential harmful or deadly to the hunter

Comment Received 12/3/2014 4:32:04 PM

Commenter Name James I Jones

City LOOGOOTEE **County** MARTIN **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address jjlones1956@gmail.com

Comments i think if you can use a crossbow during archery season you should be able to use a rifle during gun season. you allowed 410s to be used in gun season and that is like using a rifle!!!!!!!

Comment Received 12/3/2014 4:34:00 PM

Commenter Name Steve Chamblee

City Haubstadt **County** GIBSON **State** in

E-Mail Address sc0869@yahoo.com

Comments Regarding using a firearm, really never understood why the state allowed certain rifled rounds over others to begin with. Being a hunter in many states, the kills are cleaner with higher powered rifles, ballistics at a distance with the terrain here and an experienced shooter/hunter should not endanger another any different between a .458 Socom and a .308. Aside from that, i think ALL deer should be ear tagged and marked as I've found several deer hide/head/legs/internal organs dumped on our road and no way to tell if these were taken illegally or not. If the ears were cut/punched or something i would be able to alert authorities or remove and discard properly.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 4:34:31 PM

Commenter Name nathan kenseth

City fort wayne **County** ALLEN **State** in.

E-Mail Address nkenseth@comcast.net

Comments Will i hunt deer with a rifle,probably.Do i think it's a good idea,no.Seems like a heavy population for use of a rifle.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 4:35:17 PM

Commenter Name Matt Dick

City Warsaw **County** KOSCIUSKO **State** IN

E-Mail Address matt@cropins.net

Comments Please do not allow rifles down to the .243 caliber to be allowed during the general firearms season. I will not take my 3 kids under the age of 14 hunting during the regular firearms season if rifles are allowed. I will not feel safe in the woods and will not take my kids hunting with me. Allowing any cowboy in the county to go Walmart on Friday night and purchase a .300 win mag and go hunting Saturday morning is insane. Also a .308 on an AR platform is not a safe firearm to

hunt with in the woods of Northern Indiana. If this is change is passed please consider drawing a line south or north of Indy and allow rifles in Southern Indiana but not allow rifles in the flatter country of the Northern part of the state.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 4:35:30 PM

Commenter Name David Willis

City Hagerstown **County** WAYNE **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address dwillis@maxoncorp.com

Comments I would request that the NRC PASS the proposed changes on rules for deer hunting, expanded rifle cartridge options, and that pertaining to coyotes in its' entirety for 312 IAC 9. We will then be properly positioned for increased success in attaining the conservation goals of the DNR. PLEASE PASS THE PROPOSAL !

Comment Received 12/3/2014 4:36:13 PM

Commenter Name Todd Dougan

City Kingsport **County** Out of State **State** Tennessee

E-Mail Address tjdougan@embarqmail.com

Comments I am an Indiana landowner and support the rule change governing the use of rifles for deer.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 4:36:44 PM

Commenter Name Michael Mosier

City Indianapolis **County** MARION **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address mmosr@sbcglobal.net

Comments 312 IAC 9-7-10 Sunfish - How is putting a bag limit on sunfish improving the fishing? If there isn't enough fishing pressure, stunting could become a problem. Is there any studies done on this to substantiate your decision to make this a rule?

Comment Received 12/3/2014 4:37:34 PM

Commenter Name Richard Mott

City Whitestown **County** BOONE **State** IN

E-Mail Address debbiemott@earthlink.net

Comments I am in favor of the proposed rule to allow rifle hunting for deer.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 4:38:37 PM

Commenter Name Curtis Schnieb

City Flora **County** CARROLL **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address schniebster@embarqmail.com

Comments The main reason for my comment is to address the change in rifle caliber. You have at your disposal a large amount of firearm choices now without adding even more. I hunt and the area is already over run with hunters. I feel like it is already dangerous enough without adding high power rifles. Most of my shots are under 50 yards and don't need someone out there trying to make 300 yard shots. Who ever beleives that this is the right move to make does not care about the safety of the people of Indiana.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 4:39:05 PM

Commenter Name David Fletcher

City Freetown **County** JACKSON **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address dave.g.fletcher@gmail.com

Comments I agree with the change to allow high power rifles to hunt deer. Almost all states do this, so why not Indiana also?

Comment Received 12/3/2014 4:40:13 PM

Commenter Name Travis amyx

City milton **County** FAYETTE **State** indiana

E-Mail Address travis.amyx1@gmail.com

Comments I would like to see high powered rifles included in the legal firearms season up to and including the 30-06 cal. rifles being from military background and trained on "high powered" rifles the are a more effective and ethical shot on a big game animal with a smaller projectile with a high velocity, i understand they travel farther, but we as ethical hunters have a duty to ensure our surroundings are clear of hazards...and as a trained shooter I believe the high powered rifle addition would also allow more quota to be filled as we all know deer are rarely at the perfect distance for our shotguns or small cal. rifles...i would also like to see the bag limit on antlered deer to two throughout the entire hunting season with a minimum of six points to allow the bucks to mature past the first two years of life...thank you for the time and hope these comments help

Sincerely

SGT TRAVIS AMYX

USAR

Comment Received 12/3/2014 4:41:40 PM

Commenter Name bruce roberts

City bedford **County** LAWRENCE **State** in

E-Mail Address broberts@regalcapital.net

Comments I would favor the allowing of high-powered rifles to hunt deer.
Comment Received 12/3/2014 4:42:10 PM

Commenter Name Christopher Siemers
City LAFAYETTE **County** TIPPECANOE **State** IN - Indiana
E-Mail Address ctsmers@hotmail.com
Comments I am in agreement with the majority of the proposed changes. Specifically within the deer hunting regulations and panfish limits.
Comment Received 12/3/2014 4:42:30 PM

Commenter Name Josh mohr
City South Whitley **County** WHITLEY **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address Josh.mohr10@gmail.com
Comments I would like to see 30-30's be legal for deer hunting, but allowing other high powered rifle caliber s with a longer range would be detrimental to deer hunting in Indiana. A 30-30 is a brush gun, not a hih powered rifle, it's range is much smaller than other calibers
Comment Received 12/3/2014 4:43:07 PM

Commenter Name Kent Williams
City Russiaville **County** HOWARD **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address kent.williams461@gmail.com
Comments I am opposed to the use of high powered rifles for the purpose of hunting deer in Indiana. There may be counties in which it may be appropriate due to the terrain, population density etc. However, I believe in most areas it is not needed to manage the deer herd in Indiana.

I would like to see muzzleloader season extended through January 1st.

I appreciate all that the DNR does to promote hunting in Indiana.

Respectfully submitted,

Kent Williams
Comment Received 12/3/2014 4:44:07 PM

Commenter Name Scott Beam
City Fort Wayne **County** ALLEN **State** IN
E-Mail Address beamsa1@msn.com
Comments I am in favor of the proposed changed to deer hunting rifles which would allow any center fire cartridge with a .243 or larger bullet.
I also am in favor of adopting a larger minimum size on musky.
Comment Received 12/3/2014 4:44:37 PM

Commenter Name Elias Donker
City terre haute **County** VIGO **State** Indiana
Organization (optional) Mr.
E-Mail Address elidonker@gmail.com
Comments IF the rule for unlimited centerfire rifles over .243 cal for deer hunting is adopted, I highly recommend spending funding on educational outreach for surface danger areas. Unfortunately many sportsmen will confuse the ability of a precision rifle to reach out a thousand yards or more, with what a safe and ethical limit to their hunting range. Based on a career in the combat arms of the US Army with several deployments in combat, I say from experience that an uneducated implementation of rifles such as .308 or 7mm mag can be disastrous I would personally prefer to see the rules remain as they currently are for medium to large bore rifles. A compromise of allowing rifles over .338 in common calibers would allow use of more common cartridges while limiting effective range and ensuring projectiles "ground out" before they traverse ranges farther than the average hunter can see, especially on public ground. AT LEAST, limit the first year of using any rifle over 6mm/ .243 to only privately- owned ground, in order to determine effect on safety before allowing areas such as Fairbanks Landing to have such a potentially dangerous change. Respectfully, Elias A Donker.
Comment Received 12/3/2014 4:45:09 PM

Commenter Name John Craig
City Pittsgrove **County** Out of State **State** N.J.
E-Mail Address johnc351@comcast.net
Comments I would recommend voting NO to the caliber changes proposed for hunting deer in Indiana.
Comment Received 12/3/2014 4:45:25 PM

Commenter Name Jason Hartz
City Lanesville **County** FLOYD **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address jasonahartz@gmail.com
Comments I would like to see the rifle rule extend to .30 caliber and above bullet size and allow .30-06 and above size

bullets. This would allow for cleaner and more effective kills of the animals.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 4:45:27 PM

Commenter Name Dr. Gary Hoffman

City Anderson **County** MADISON **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address DrHoff2@gmail.com

Comments My comment only refers to the proposed use of rifles for deer hunting in Indiana. I did not ever think I would see this happen, but I think it is a wonderful idea. This will open hunting to many more young people who might not otherwise been interested in deer hunting. I am very proud of our Indiana DNR-it is a top notch organization, and I appreciate this new proposed rule.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 4:45:46 PM

Commenter Name SHawn Gallagher

City Evansville **County** VANDERBURGH **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address shawn@gallagherdrilling.com

Comments I support the notion of raising the legal length of Musky to 44 inches in the prescribed areas. If I were King I'd extend the length to 44" all over the state. Indiana spends a lot of money developing the Musky fishery (which is doing very well in Southern Indiana) developing these areas as "trophy" fisheries makes a lot of sense and will attract more fishermen.

Thanks You,

Shawn Gallagher

Comment Received 12/3/2014 4:46:00 PM

Commenter Name Aaron Gene Curtis

City Brownsburg **County** HENDRICKS **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address acurtis@capstonebenefits.com

Comments I am in favor of allowing centerfire rifle cartridges for deer hunting. I would, however, suggest allowing .223 caliber. A .223/5.56 with a quality bullet is plenty enough gun to kill a deer. Likewise, they are allowed for coyote/fox/pig hunting, why not allow them for deer as well? This seems to just make it harder for law enforcement. I'm also in favor of just about anything that will improve hunter satisfaction and recruit/retain hunters.

Rule 18.6.a is confusing: I've hunted wild pigs in other states and they often look very much like a domesticated pig. And I have no idea what an "heirloom" pig is. I also don't see the reason to not allow pigs to be hunted with dogs. Dogs are already used for coons and other furbearing animals. Seems that you would want any pig running loose in the wild to be removed by just about any means available. Why place restrictions on the removal of feral pigs and give them any chance to establish a breeding population.

Baiting: It is not mentioned herein as a rule change but I've heard it is being considered for deer hunting. I would be in favor of allowing baiting, at least on private land (not on state owned property, that could get ugly). For the following reasons:

1.) not allowing it is hard if not impossible for law enforcement to enforce. And, its already happening all over the state as a result. Why not allow it and regulate what can be used and how much. It is effectively an honor based law now, so expecting the same from hunters on the amount or kinds of bait isn't much of a stretch.

2.) Retailers of all shapes and sizes sell bait and attractants now, its hard to convince anyone that it not being used in Indiana

3.) It makes the harvesting of deer easier; that is important to hunters who simply don't have many days to scout and hunt. Hunter hunt to kill their quarry; baiting would increase hunter satisfaction.

4.) It provides hunters with another choice in the manner in which they wish to hunt. If someone wants to use bait, fine. If not, don't use it. Another chance to improve hunter satisfaction and retain and recruit more hunters.

5.) Shooting deer over bait increases the chances of a more selective harvest and cleaner kills. Deer standing still and a known range are better targets (cleaner/quicker kill) and it allows the hunter to examine the deer to make sure it is one they really want to kill. Should result in fewer abandoned kills, few fawns killed, few button bucks killed.

6.) You (the DNR) has made it clear that the bonus tags will be the means by which you regulate the number of deer killed. If baiting increases the annual harvest just lower the number of bonus tags.

7.) I see nothing different about a 1/4 plot of clover (or an fruit tree, oak tree, etc) and a pile of corn (or other bait). If disease transmission is a concern, both concentrate deer in a small area. One is considered ethical and the other isn't, which I think is simply personal preference.... other states allow baiting and it is considered perfectly acceptable in those areas.

Thanks for the opportunity to express my thoughts and provide feedback.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 4:46:49 PM

Commenter Name Mitchell Hooper

City Portage **County** PORTER **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address md1994@sbcglobal.net

Comments I believe center fire rifles should not become legal to hunt deer in the state of Indiana. Shotguns act as a handicap to firearms hunters, making a closer shot necessary. It makes hunters pick better stand locations and forces them to pattern their quarry so they can get with in 150 yards to take that deer. By making it that much tougher on the hunter it

allows more deer to reach maturity, thus improving the quality of the herd. It is no secret that most of the boon and crocket deer come from shotgun only states. While most of the reason why the deer in those states are quality deer is certainly due to habitat and quality management, I do feel strongly that the ban on rifles does play a part in it. Indiana is a flat state for the most part, If you allow a hunter to use a .308 he will just build a heated box blind and pick off deer left and right, taking all of the sport out of it. That is not hunting. Also you will have droves of people that think they are class A snipers and can pull of extremely long shots, when all they are really going to do is wound deer. Or shoot a house or truck or combine in the field over. PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE do not legalize the use of center fire rifles in the state of Indiana. Maintain what good deer hunting we have by allowing only the use of slug guns and pistol caliber rifles in the field

Comment Received 12/3/2014 4:47:02 PM

Commenter Name Jerad O. Mitchell

City Valparaiso **County** PORTER **State** IN - Indiana

E-Mail Address jomitchell42@gmail.com

Comments I am against this change. If considered suggest maintaining the use of a single round fire arm rather than a semi-automatic weapon such as a lever action, bolt action, pump, etc. I would also like to offer an opinion. As an all season archery hunter this change will potentially have a negative effect on our opportunities to harvest non pressured mature whitetails on public property. In your reasoning you mention statistics from other states to convey your message. If this change is considered I would like to propose that we increase the archery only public land hunting to offset the pressure that will increase from the change. In the non urban areas, Indiana has much to gain in revenue by having large areas classified as Archery only all season. I travel outside of Indiana and spend thousands to hunt public archery on reserves. Please consider a balance of acreage and geography across the state if more modern firearm options are allowed. I support the theory of having equal firearm to archery only public acreage in the state.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 4:47:41 PM

Commenter Name dale malkemus

City Cambridge city **County** WAYNE **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address stuff4dw@aol.com

Comments Regarding changing rifle cartridge rule changes; I and every one else that I surveyed is against this change for safety reasons. Wayne County has flat terrain with houses lining most roads making it unsafe for unlimited use of these weapons in the hands of the average untrained person, the same ones who unload a semi-automatic shotguns at running deer, would now be firing round capable of traveling miles down range. Think about opening day in crowded public hunting SRAS or state park hunts. Dale Malkemus

Comment Received 12/3/2014 4:48:10 PM

Commenter Name Timothy Roberts

City Wabash **County** WABASH **State** In.

E-Mail Address judgeroberts85@gmail.com

Comments Please don't allow the firearms for deer hunting to include all centerfire rifles. If this change is allowed and the current bag limit allowing every hunter to take several does goes forward the deer numbers will go to new record lows. You might consider adding specific cartridges. Such as used in traditional lever actions. Examples: 30-30 .35 rem. 32 win special 45-70 etc.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 4:51:37 PM

Commenter Name Matthew July

City Peru **County** MIAMI **State** IN

E-Mail Address mattjuly7@gmail.com

Comments I support the proposed changes.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 4:52:17 PM

Commenter Name Travis Shelton

City Santa Claus **County** SPENCER **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address Tbshltn@gmail.com

Comments I am against the proposed rifle regulations. Allow any center fire .243 and larger there will be people taking shots on game way outside there abilities. Please leave well enough alone.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 4:52:33 PM

Commenter Name john r. kiddier

City lafayette **County** TIPPECANOE **State** IN

E-Mail Address kiddog78@aol.com

Comments Making all high power rifles legal is dangerous, regardless what data the DNR is sourcing. If you have not been paying attention, there is a lot of interest in long range hunting now. More than one fool for sure will be attempting 1000 yard shots with a 50 BMG rifle as soon as this change is allowed. There are plenty of those guns out there also. There's no good reason to change current laws, other than to attempt to keep deer tag sales up. This change would also squash a nice nitch industry here in Indanan of custom guns made to fit into the existing regs. The DNR has helped manag to deer herd into a shadow of it's former self. Stop trying to shift the focus from this problem and address it before we loose a whole generation of new hunters because there are no deer to hunt

Comment Received 12/3/2014 4:53:14 PM

Commenter Name Jerry W. Glass

City Fillmore County PUTNAM State IN

E-Mail Address jwglass@tds.net

Comments I am in favor of the .243 and larger caliber. I think it is time we got with the other states on this issue.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 4:54:39 PM

Commenter Name Anthony Nash

City Albion County NOBLE State IN

E-Mail Address tahnash@aol.com

Comments I don't think high power rifles should be allowed because Indiana is so populated and there are so many misinformed people not knowing enough about ballistics of the firearms they would be using and not knowing where the bullet would be going after the shot or how far it will travel even if it hit the target. Two weeks before firearm season opened I helped a neighbor put a blind in place and this subject came up and 1 person said its about time Indiana allows rifles all the other states do and I argued there are too many people and houses for it and they knew nothing about how far or fast the bullet will travel. That blind is only 375-400 yards from a stand that my son and I sit in on another property and 450 from a house and all that is between my stand and the blind is a field and all that is between the house and the blind is a field. So please remember there are a lot of people out there that don't know anything about the firearms they use just that its legal. They don't realize that not knowing what their rifle can do can result in reckless endangerment. So please keep people like my sons and I safe don't pass this rule.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 4:54:53 PM

Commenter Name Reverend Peyton

City Nashville County BROWN State Indiana

E-Mail Address revpeyton@gmail.com

Comments I agree with bag limits on panfish, and I think high powered rifles should be legal for deer in Indiana, but it might be wise to have some county restrictions on it. In Southern Indiana I believe it will be more safe and humane, but in counties with more population maybe their use should be limited. Thank you.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 4:56:34 PM

Commenter Name bob graber

City peru County MIAMI State in

E-Mail Address bobgraber@comcast.net

Comments I think changing legal rifle cartridge is a big mistake there are hunters who do not need to carry rifles

Comment Received 12/3/2014 4:58:44 PM

Commenter Name Frank M. Levi

City Tinley Park County Out of State State IL

E-Mail Address franklevi@andrewrec.org

Comments I am in favor of changing the minimum cal. for deer hunting to .243 and the elimination of the maximum case length on rifles used to hunt deer.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 5:00:02 PM

Commenter Name Rich Ison

City North Vernon County JENNINGS State IN

E-Mail Address sibbyworm@yahoo.com

Comments I would like to comment on the proposed rule change that would allow rifle cartridges to be used for deer hunting in Indiana. The current cartridge length maximum of 1.800" and the use of modern muzzleloaders is MORE THAN adequate for hunting whitetail deer. While not all deer hunting in Indiana takes place in the timber, the majority of it does. Opening up a scenario where hunters can shoot hundreds of yards across open fields will change the landscape of hunting as well as promote behavior such as: Shooting across roads, shooting onto neighboring properties, taking irresponsible shots, endangering hunters walking field edges or CRP fields, etc. With current laws, a hunter can ethically kill a whitetail at 200 yards. Why do we need to increase that distance to 500, 600 yards? Totally irresponsible in a state that is too populated in rural areas. This isn't Wyoming who has a state population the size of the city of Indianapolis. Please deny this change for the safety of hunters, landowners, and passers by.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 5:00:37 PM

Commenter Name Christopher Rottet

City Jasper County DUBOIS State Indiana

E-Mail Address cjrottet@gmail.com

Comments (4) A rifle must fire a cartridge that meets the following specifications:

(A) Fire a bullet of three hundred fifty-seven thousandths (.357) two hundred fortythree thousandths (.243) of an inch diameter or larger.

(B) Have a minimum case length of one and sixteen-hundredths (1.16) inches.

I believe this rule change would benefit both in hunter shot accuracy, and the reduction in lost game due to non lethal shot placement. I think bad shots can be made with any gun and any caliber, and that hunters in Indiana are responsible enough to use these larger rounds with great benefit.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 5:01:08 PM

Commenter Name Dr John Lee

City West Lafayette **County** TIPPECANOE **State** IN

E-Mail Address horselee@aol.com

Comments Finally we can use the right tools to harvest deer in IN. Under the previous code one could use a 30.06 handgun (Encore) to hunt deer but not a more accurate rifle in the same caliber. Likewise one could use a high powered rifle to hunt coyotes and other species during the season. It would be great to see IN get consistent with neighboring states on firearm use (MI and KY). I have hunted in Indiana for more than 25 years and had to go out-of-state to deer hunt with my rifles. Those states got revenue from these trips that IN would have received if the rules were different. Given technological changes in muzzleloading and handguns in the past 10 years, it only seems reasonable to change the regulations on rifles to the proposed new rule. For those that worry about the distance a high powered rifle bullet can travel, I would worry more about it coming from a handgun than a rifle. I believe that the vast majority of IN hunters are responsible. However, if one wanted to add a magazine restriction to the regulation (5 rounds or less) that would be OK by me. I've hunted in states where AR's with 30 round clips were used. This additional constraint would help sell your rule change to most sportsmen and sportswomen. Sincerely John Lee

Comment Received 12/3/2014 5:02:05 PM

Commenter Name Gary Garber

City New Paris **County** ELKHART **State** IN.

E-Mail Address garyg@bnin.net

Comments I support the rule changing in favor of more high powered rifles being allowed for deer hunting. This may be a good way to bring more people into the deer hunting arena and make it a more exciting hunt. After hunting in Wyoming and Montana for many years, I know I would welcome the changes being discussed.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 5:02:48 PM

Commenter Name David Johnson

City scottsburg **County** SCOTT **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address dwjohnson1964@Gmail.com

Comments I really like the proposed rifle Season it should have been done a long time ago . Why should we shoot deer with slugs when you can more humanely kill deer with the accuracy of a high powered rifle

Comment Received 12/3/2014 5:03:42 PM

Commenter Name George Biddlecome

City Goshen **County** ELKHART **State** IN

E-Mail Address g.m.biddlecome@gmail.com

Comments I am commenting in regard to 312 IAC 9-3-3 (d)(4). I fully support this change, as I believe that centerfire rifles. .243 Win. Cal. and above, can safely and efficiently be used to take deer within the state of Indiana. Furthermore, I believe the legalization of these calibers for taking deer, would expand the access to deer hunting for those hunters which might be more comfortable with these types of firearms, or who may possess a firearm in a proposed caliber, wish to hunt, and not be able afford a firearm in a caliber which is legal under the current regulations.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 5:04:58 PM

Commenter Name Calvin Hunt

City Kokomo **County** HOWARD **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address Rothhar1@aol.com

Comments I do not like the "Before its repeal" included on the life time hunting license type language in deer hunting season and licenses .I see a big giant white whale .The new Before its repeal language is not needed and will end up putting the screws to us who have LTLs .I see it coming in short order . Since the LTL is not sold then the language is just fine . This is just an attempt to take more money from us who have paid to hunt for life without having to buy another tag or license here . There is not a single way to hide that with this language change .

I not only say no on this I say hell no!!!

Lever the license language alone unless you are just going to sell a single "DEER" tag / license that is good for buck or doe in any and all regular deer seasons in this state .That is the only change I ever want to see in this unless you are going to sell Life Time licenses again.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 5:05:18 PM

Commenter Name Calvin Hunt

City Kokomo **County** HOWARD **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address Rothhar1@aol.com

Comments I do not like the "Before its repeal" included on the life time hunting license type language in deer hunting season and licenses .I see a big giant white whale .The new Before its repeal language is not needed and will end up putting the screws to us who have LTLs .I see it coming in short order . Since the LTL is not sold then the language is just fine . This is just an attempt to take more money from us who have paid to hunt for life without having to buy another tag or license here .There is not a single way to hide that with this language change .

I not only say no on this I say hell no!!!

Lever the license language alone unless you are just going to sell a single "DEER" tag / license that is good for buck or doe in any and all regular deer seasons in this state .That is the only change I ever want to see in this unless you are going to sell Life Time licenses again.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 5:05:44 PM

Commenter Name Geoffrey Orr
City Indianapolis **County** MARION **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address jarasmussen18@yahoo.com
Comments Hi,

My name is Geoffrey Orr of Indianapolis, IN

I would like to say I vote against the adoption of High Power Rifle use in 2015.

I believe that the implementation of those types of weapons will be -dangerous to the public -detrimental to deer herd - increase wound numbers do to over confidence -turn away more of the public from hunting due to inherit danger of such firearms

I believe that with modern muzzleloaders and dedicated slug guns the average hunter can be accurate and effective with plenty of range (200yards) to harvest deer.

The potential risk of bullet deflection and accidental injury/death is far to much risk.

I have been hunting in Indiana for 20 years now and it never ceases to amaze me of how many shots I hear opening day coming from the same person. If that person were using a high powered rifle they would effectively become MUCH more dangerous to others around them.

I hope this comment is heard and thank you for your time.

Geoffrey Orr

Comment Received 12/3/2014 5:06:11 PM

Commenter Name George Fry
City Clay City **County** CLAY **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address pojo46@iwon.com
Comments The wording and new proposed rules should be accepted in my opinion.
 Having been an Indiana hunter for more than fifty-five (55) years.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 5:06:15 PM

Commenter Name Paul Meyers
City Indianapolis **County** MARION **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address pmeyers321@gmail.com
Comments I support allowing centerfire rifle to be used during the firearms season. I have hunted with advanced muzzleloaders and wildcat calibers (357 Maximum) that were used to gain maximum killing efficacy while still adhering to the DNR rules. I believe that a hunter should be allowed to utilize technology to cleanly and humanely harvest game.

Years ago, the shotgun was the most advanced weapon that was legal to use in Indiana. I have seen too many deer wounded from their inherent inaccuracy. Also, many hunters result to firing multiple shots using shotguns, which increases the likelihood of damage to persons, property, and the environment.

Respectfully,

Paul Meyers

Comment Received 12/3/2014 5:08:12 PM

Commenter Name Todd Grayam
City Plymouth **County** MARSHALL **State** in
E-Mail Address tgsidewinder@gmail.com
Comments I would like to see use of the high power rife used for deer hunting. If made into law nothing less then a 243 up to 30 06. This will help to reduce the risk of travel on the round. 7.56 x 39 shouldn't be used no knock down power. 30 30 should be ok to use. 223 shouldn't used either.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 5:08:44 PM

Commenter Name Scott Baldwin
City Noblesville **County** HAMILTON **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address scottbaldwin@scottbaldwin.com
Comments Thank you for allowing the open dialogue. I know it must be difficult with staffing to review and contemplate all

views. I support the proposed changes. I have a couple of suggestions. 1. I would suggest that Indiana establish a mandatory form for the "piece of paper" that hunters must use to record their deer kill. I think that this will speed processing, allow some standardization, and establish uniformity. The form can be downloaded and printed, or cut out of the back of the hunting regulations (previously done). If not mandatory, then as a means of suggesting uniformity. 2. I am lukewarm on rifle hunting in Indiana. I feel that it should not be allowed in perceived urban areas, or within a certain distance of incorporated cities/towns. I'm just not confident in the average hunter's safety precautions. A 270 can travel quite a distance in the hands of an inexperienced 19 year old. But, I know there is a big push to allow this. 3. I don't think that it is practical to have a tag/paper on a harvested deer while in a vehicle. They get illegible with body fluids, blow off, tear, etc. I think that so long as the hunter is in possession of the paper/tag when in transport, that is sufficient. If we are trusting them to electronically check, then we can trust them to hold the paper in their pocket safely. Lastly, I know that this is not one of the topics, but we need to re-assess how we award deer reduction hunts. Too many hunters in an area reduces the kill rate, increases danger, and creates confusion (deer just leave the county before sun comes up). There are some creative options that I think could actually make the state of Indiana some money with respect to these opportunities, or at a minimum make them more effective and safer. These are my comments and I thank you immensely for what you do and for taking the time to review them, no matter the outcome.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 5:09:24 PM

Commenter Name Don Page

City Wheatland **County** KNOX **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address dpage@gshvin.org

Comments I strongly disagree with the adoption of a rifle season in Indiana!! My concern is two fold :::: #1 is safety- I have hunted for over 30 years and know of a few friends that have been involved in "near-misses" during the regular firearm season. Extending the range of shooting to that of a rifle will just make this possibility of shooting resulting in injury or death far greater. #2 wounded game - the shot attempts in brush or distance will increase resulting in wounded animals that are never recovered. It is often difficult to establish a good blood trail when you have shot an animal at 100 yds let a lone the range of a rifle. Please reconsider this ruling to allow a rifle season for the safety of hunters and animals. thank you.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 5:10:06 PM

Commenter Name James Roberts

City Charlestown **County** CLARK **State** In

E-Mail Address jmsrbrts4@gmail.com

Comments I support this proposal on changes to hunting with a high power rifle.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 5:11:36 PM

Commenter Name George Biddlecome

City Goshen **County** ELKHART **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address g.m.biddlecome@gmail.com

Comments This comment is directed at the proposed change of 312 IAC 9-3-2 (p)(1). I believe that by removing the traditional metal tag from the deer checking process, it will make it harder for law enforcement or concerned citizens to ensure that dead deer have not been poached. I also don't like the idea of having to keep track of a confirmation number for the duration of the time which I keep my deer in the freezer, I would much rather have the metal tag.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 5:11:50 PM

Commenter Name Tom Maxson

City Romney **County** TIPPECANOE **State** In

E-Mail Address maxsonville@tds.net

Comments I support the rule allowing high powered rifles for deer hunting during the firearm season.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 5:14:11 PM

Commenter Name Phillip Baker

City Morgantown **County** BROWN **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address monsterbucks88@yahoo.com

Comments Reason I support the rule to allow rifles is because I think it would allow for better retrieval of game. More accurate weapons mean less wounded animals.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 5:17:42 PM

Commenter Name Franklin Andrew

City Harrodsburg **County** MONROE **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address faa7850@gmail.com

Comments As a property owner and rancher I can see no justification for permitting the use of rifle cartridge .243 or larger. They are very few parcels of private property that would permit the safe discharge of these types of rounds without a proper back stop. The use of these cartridges on public land pose even a greater danger. These cartridges have an effective range of over 400 yards. A miss or ricochet could have catastrophic results.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 5:20:11 PM

Commenter Name kyle Armstrong

City Corydon **County** HARRISON **State** IN

E-Mail Address groundhog47118@aol.com

Comments I disagree with the proposed rule change of allowing all rifle calibers to be used for deer hunting. I think it would be a good idea to make a couple of calibers legal instead of allowing any caliber. A lot of people I know would like 30-30, 45-70, 35 whelen, and 243 to be legal

Comment Received 12/3/2014 5:21:24 PM

Commenter Name Anthony Holmes

City Lafayette **County** TIPPECANOE **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address Tholmes625@comcast.net

Comments All for the changes in the use of high power rifles for deer hunting. Glad to see this.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 5:24:35 PM

Commenter Name James a staashelm

City floyds knobs **County** FLOYD **State** Indiana

Organization (optional) Landowner

E-Mail Address tstaash@gmail.com

Comments I like them. If you really want to control the herd, open deer gun season one week earlier than you normally do. The way it is now, the deer are in lockdown mode in the second week of gun season. I quit going the second week because of this. They are hooked up with Does. When deer are in Chase mode, sightings go way up . Thanks for listening!

Comment Received 12/3/2014 5:25:47 PM

Commenter Name James Sanders

City Martinsville **County** MORGAN **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address Dm.aprilia@yahoo.com

Comments I would like to see high powered rifle open during black powder season. It will give a better opportunity to bag game after crop harvesting season. It will offer better chances to curb deer populations per county. Especially for farmers with higher crop loss due to deer population.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 5:26:53 PM

Commenter Name Aaron Wilson

City Fishers **County** HAMILTON **State** IN

E-Mail Address aaronwilson358@gmail.com

Comments I fully support these proposed changes, particularly the change regarding rifle usage. Centerfire rifle usage has proven safe for other species, deer will be no exception.

Please allow the use of centerfire rifles as proposed by this change!

Comment Received 12/3/2014 5:28:45 PM

Commenter Name Aaron Wilson

City Fishers **County** HAMILTON **State** IN

E-Mail Address aaronwilson358@gmail.com

Comments I fully support these proposed changes, particularly the change regarding rifle usage. Centerfire rifle usage has proven safe for other species, deer will be no exception.

Please allow the use of centerfire rifles as proposed by this change!

Comment Received 12/3/2014 5:29:18 PM

Commenter Name William E Isaacs Jr

City Terre Haute **County** VIGO **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address jrisaacs1@frontier.com

Comments We have no restrictions on coyote. I believe this proposed rule change should be adopted to include all calibers of high powered rifles.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 5:30:48 PM

Commenter Name Mike LaLonde

City Warsaw **County** KOSCIUSKO **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address mlalonde65@comcast.net

Comments Do not add more calibers that have the ability to travel farther than we already have. In the area I hunt there is already a safety concern because of the proximity to other hunters and the concern about bullet travel.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 5:30:49 PM

Commenter Name Homer Campbell

City Kokomo **County** HOWARD **State** in

E-Mail Address jr@indianapest.com

Comments I think the new gun rule for high powered rifles is a great step for helping Hunters achieve better possibility's of Harvest. With the hunters getting to be older in Indiana Its important to update the older laws or regulations so IN DNR can recruit new hunters that have gun interest other than the older traditional firearms.

I'd think limiting the rounds for a some rifles maybe in order .

Thanks for a great job on our freedoms of hunting Indiana and fishing !

Comment Received 12/3/2014 5:33:04 PM

Commenter Name WADE THOMAS

City MEMPHIS **County** CLARK **State** INDIANA

E-Mail Address SPEEDYMT66@HOTMAIL.COM

Comments I agree with allowing high powered rifles. With todays Muzzleloader's ability and the range and power of todays pistol cartages..such has the S&W .500 to take deer and distances of 200yds The use of .30/30 - .35rem - .444 - 45/70 are equal to what is already legal today. I would also agree that Rifles such as .270 .308 and 30.06 ,could be used safety in Indiana say...south of HWY 70. Where there are more Hills and uneven terrain. Larger calibers would lead to less wounded and lost deer.

Thank you,

Wade Thomas

Comment Received 12/3/2014 5:33:43 PM

Commenter Name kevin keith

City liberty township **County** RIPLEY **State** indiana

E-Mail Address kkeith38@zoomtown.com

Comments I think a high powered rifle should be allowed, with consideration for proximity to city centers...Also, am for shortened firearms and muzzleloader seasons to a week each

Comment Received 12/3/2014 5:34:05 PM

Commenter Name james hibbs

City elizabethtown **County** BARTHOLOMEW **State** indiana

E-Mail Address shaunahibbs@comcast.net

Comments With the use of smokeless muzzleloaders and the 358 wssm and the 358 hoosier also contender pistols chambered in high powered rounds the use of high powered rifles is already here. opening it up would allow the people who cant afford a thousand dollar gun the ability to participate. Hopefully allowing a better number of deer to be taking satisfying dnr's herd management.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 5:34:19 PM

Commenter Name Scott M. Schwing

City Rising Sun **County** OHIO **State** IN

E-Mail Address schwings@embarqmail.com

Comments Support the use of Rifles. Doe tags need to be dropped from 8 to 4 or under. Deer numbers have been dropping in Ohio Co from hunters and EHD. Get rid of the Transport Tag, have no idea why you have to attach a transport tag to a deer. You can check it in from the field by using your phone. CheckIN is great.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 5:37:10 PM

Commenter Name Jarrett Babincsak

City LaPorte **County** LAPORTE **State** IN

E-Mail Address jbabincs@yahoo.com

Comments Personally I think limiting firearm choices to firearms with average effective range of <250 yds is ideal given the geography and suburban sprawl into many hunting areas. That said, the cartridge length rule as written is senseless. Currently a hunter can use a modern inline muzzleloader but not a 45.70. There's no rhyme or reason to some of what is and/or is not allowed.

The other rule that should be looked at is crossbows in archery only seasons. A crossbow is not archery tackle and has not place in archery only seasons, unless in the hands of a hunter with a documented physical disability.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 5:39:43 PM

Commenter Name Bret W Mundy

City Birdseye **County** CRAWFORD **State** IN

E-Mail Address bret12@frontier.com

Comments I believe that the use of high powered rifles in Indiana would be a mistake, most of the shotguns now have rifled barrels and can shoot a sabot type slug, up to 2000 feet per second,that is why I really don't see the need for them, however do see that by legalizing them it could increase the risk of a hunting accident, because of the range of these types of guns. I have been hunting for 35 years and have seen a few times a excited hunter takes a shot over a hill or a flat surface.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 5:40:24 PM

Commenter Name Brian Michael

City Clay City **County** CLAY **State** IN

E-Mail Address bmichael11@ivytech.edu

Comments I do not believe that high powered rifles should be legal for deer hunting in Indiana. Many deer have been taken for years without using anything but shotguns and muzzleloaders as firearms. High powered rifles are not needed and opens up a pandora's box already with current legal rifles. I use a caliber inline muzzleloader and disagree with the statement that they are high powered rifles. Mine is only accurate to 175 yards and I am a former special operations sniper. The .50 beowulf should not be legal. We used these assault rifles in Iraq to shoot through engine blocks and into the cab to impose kill shots from a distance of up to 300 meters with optics on the rifle. When using a high powered rifle encourages hunters who just go out and buy one that are not experts to take 500 to 1000 yard shots with it. How can anyone be sure what else or who else is that far away from them especially on public land.

I can shoot 2 inch groups with my .308 at 1200 meters. If I were to miss the deer, what else maybe on the other side of it still in effective killing range? I can shoot my shotgun at effective accuracy the same as my muzzleloader out to 175 yards. If the deer are further than that change your position, do not change the amount of power behind the shot to shoot farther than you can clearly see with the naked eye.

Don't make Indiana like other states with wide open ares to shoot. In most cases your average shot is 100 yards or less. If you shoot a deer with a .50 Beowulf at 100 yards or less it is over kill.

I am not anti gun and a strong supporter of the NRA and gun safety, but changing the way it has always been because hunters aren't good enough to kill a deer with a .20 gauge shotgun want to hunt with a weapon with too much over kill is ridiculous.

Your proposed changes would allow me to hunt with my .50 caliber Browning BMG sniper rifle deadly with accuracy at well over a mile. Is that fair chase for the animals. Do not take the sport and challenge out of deer hunting I beg of you.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 5:41:20 PM

Commenter Name Steve Hackney
City Stilesville **County** HENDRICKS **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address hackney317@tds.net

Comments Change to allow high powered rifles for deer hunting. I support this ammendment for most counties with the exception of densely populated counties such as marion county.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 5:43:28 PM

Commenter Name Kurt Alleshouse
City Howe **County** LAGRANGE **State** In
E-Mail Address kurta1066@gmail.com

Comments Comment

Comment Received 12/3/2014 5:44:08 PM

Commenter Name Josh Brown
City Columbus **County** BARTHOLOMEW **State** IN
E-Mail Address josh.emily.brown@gmail.com

Comments I strongly urge the committee to approve the use of rifles in the deer hunt in the traditional firearms season.

I also would ask that they consider opening the traditional firearm season for all firearms. Today's muzzleloaders are as powerful as modern rifles and the distinct seasons are functionally no different and only serve those with access to multiple firearms.

Thanks,
Josh

Comment Received 12/3/2014 5:45:53 PM

Commenter Name Brian Pugsley
City Muncie **County** DELAWARE **State** IN
E-Mail Address bkpugsley2009@gmail.com

Comments I wish to comment on the rules of high powered rifles for deer and bluegill bag limits...I am OK with HPRs being legalized; however, if they are not approved; I would also support that as well. More deer will definitely be killed. I do not want to see more hunters because of rifles. So if I can use my HPR without having to deal with more hunters, I am all for it. More effective. Cheaper to shoot, etc.

Bluegills are overfished the way it is. A daily limit of 25 would be great. Summit Lake is where and many of my friends fish and other than the Spring, it's hard to get into good bluegills over the summer anymore. They are fished way too hard and too many are removed leaving fewer and smaller bluegills to catch outside of ice and early Spring fishing.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 5:46:06 PM

Commenter Name Dan Bridegroom
City North Judson **County** STARKE **State** in
E-Mail Address dbridegroom@hotmail.com

Comments I agree with the removal of the max case length. I shot a long range 50 cal muzzleloader and have taken deer at 300 yards (1shot kill) . This is the same distance I shot Elk and deer in other states. The weapon of choice is not the question , its the shooter behind it.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 5:48:07 PM

Commenter Name Clint Dewey

City Brazil **County** CLAY **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address elaboratehoax70@yahoo.com

Comments No one firearm is inherently more dangerous than another, but there should be a "maximum" caliber allowed in Indiana! Not many places in the state would it be possible to make a shot beyond several hundred yards and deer are not large enough game to require a magnum caliber round! I would be glad to be able to use my center fire rifle to hunt with, but believe it should have an upper limit! Maybe we should consider a shooting test (taken at time of hunters education class) that has to be passed to be allowed to use a rifle during deer season. It would be a good move for hunters in Indiana to be allowed to hunt with rifles, but I also believe responsible hunters will acknowledge that you don't have to use bigger calibers in order to take deer size game, like it has always been....accuracy will take more deer than a larger caliber firearm!

Comment Received 12/3/2014 5:48:32 PM

Commenter Name Andrew Cook

City Anderson **County** MADISON **State** IN

E-Mail Address Andrewcook1948@hotmail.com

Comments I oppose the rule change to allow high powered rifles for hunting deer. High powered rifles are unnecessary and dangerous. I hunt regularly and my mossburg rifled slug barrel will reach out accurately to over 150 yds.... But the slug stops dramatically after that preventing harm to those in the distant line of fire. My 44mag again reaches out to 200 yds accurately and effectively. Allowing high powered rifles will because the bullet travels much farther put those in the line of fire at distance in danger but will also encourage hunters to take longer less accurate shots and not kill but only wound deer

Comment Received 12/3/2014 5:50:03 PM

Commenter Name Tory Hildreth

City Pekin **County** WASHINGTON **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address thildreth@live.com

Comments If people can shoot their high powered rifles throughout the year legally, then why should those same high powered rifles be outlawed from use in deer season? I am all for the rule change and am anxious to see if the rule change will bring more people to the woods. Looking forward to the 2015 season!

Comment Received 12/3/2014 5:51:38 PM

Commenter Name Kenny Pavlicks

City Williamsport **County** WARREN **State** Indiana

Organization (optional) Possum Run Guns

E-Mail Address lakenp@sbcglobal.net

Comments I agree with allowing the change allowing high powered rifles for deer hunting.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 5:52:55 PM

Commenter Name Wesley Crawford

City W Lafayette **County** TIPPECANOE **State** IN

Organization (optional) none

E-Mail Address wes@creativeconstruction.com

Comments RE: SECTION 5. 312 IAC 9-3-3 Use of Rifle Cartridges .243 or larger

I am opposed to this rule. Makes no sense to allow a flat shooting magnum to be used to shoot at a deer at the top of a rise and have the bullet go for half a mile to someone's home. Hunters flailing away at a running deer with a 7mm magnum is inviting an accident. I have been a hunter for 55 years and have used rifles in Penna. and Colo. I've taken shots at over 400 yards. I know what these calibers are capable of regarding distance.

Please do not approve this rule. If you want more rifle cartridges to be used, consider only antique calibers such as the 38-55 or the 45-70 as the will give the accuracy needed by won't go the distance of those souped up wildcat magnums.

Thank you for listening.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 5:53:03 PM

Commenter Name jeremy j crochet

City boonville **County** WARRICK **State** indiana

E-Mail Address jeremyjcrochet@gmail.com

Comments I believe that it is a good idea for the limit changes on pan fish. In regard to the permission to use high power rifles for deer firearm season such as listed, I totally agree with the use of the high power rifles. I believe it is more ethical and I believe that there will be less wounded deer that get away and are eaten by coyotes. Other states with similar landscapes and terrain use them and have no issues. Thank you for listening ;jeremy crochet

Comment Received 12/3/2014 5:53:18 PM

Commenter Name Donovan Robinson
City Mooresville **County** MORGAN **State** IN
Organization (optional) private landowner
E-Mail Address muttfarm@sbcglobal.net

Comments It is a mistake to add high powered rifles to deer hunting. The safety of shotguns' short reach keeps Hoosier hunter confidence up in the woods.

I would be scared to death if my neighbors could fire a .243 cartridge across my fence at deer level!
 Indiana Woods are too small to require a rifle to reach the target.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 5:53:22 PM

Commenter Name Kirk Womack
City Brookville **County** FRANKLIN **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address kirkpwomack@hotmail.com

Comments I would like to comment on the use of "high powered rifles" for the use of taking deer during "rifle" season in Indiana. I have been hunting deer since I was 15 years old and that was about 37 years ago in Arizona and Wyoming. While hunting there, I successfully took annually, deer, elk, and antelope with my 30-06 rifle. Never once in all those years did I ever hear of or witness anyone ever getting hurt or injured from a stray bullet from one of these "high powered" rifles. I am assuming that has been the so called reason that "high powered" rifles have been restricted for use here in Indiana. I can attest that using a larger caliber hunting rifle is a more humane way to take these larger animals and the hunter is less likely to lose their game from a much less powerful and accurate projectile that is currently being required for them to use during firearms season. I am not bragging, just stating the facts here. I spent 15 years in the Navy as a Sniper, firing thousands of rounds from the high velocity, long range firearms that are currently being used all over the United States to take similar wild game and believe me when I tell you, there is no good reason that Indiana hunters should not be using these same firearms and projectiles to take big game with. Not only would the hunters be more successful and confident the field using these types of firearms, it would bring another way small businesses could make more money in tax revenue from the sales of this type of firearm. Please take into consideration from what I have said here and please get rid of the thinking that these firearms are going to cause more accidents. It's just not true. Thank You, Kirk Womack

Comment Received 12/3/2014 5:54:49 PM

Commenter Name GREG JOHNSON
City KNOX **County** STARKE **State** INDIANA
E-Mail Address GRJOHNS@EMBARQMAIL.COM

Comments I THINK THE CHANGES FOR FIREARMS (ALLOWING LARGER CALIBERS) IS A VERY GOOD PROPOSAL.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 5:56:35 PM

Commenter Name Ted Fenicle II
City Portage **County** PORTER **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address Osprey219@aol.com

Comments My comment is in regard to the rifle changes in 312 IAC 9-3-3 Equipment for deer hunting. I'm against allowing high powered rifles in the state of Indiana. Safety is my number 1 concern with this rule change. I personally hunt in the Northern portion of the state and we have flat relatively open terrain with high hunter density. On public properties on opening day of firearms such as Jasper Pulaski FWA hunter numbers are around 300 hunters on the 8,000 acre FWA. This leaves about 1 hunter per 26 acres or roughly 24 hunters per sq mile. Now keep in mind the entire center of that property is off limits to gun hunting but is factored into the overall hunter density so the hunter density is dramatically higher. Winamac FWA has 4,750 acres and allows 300 hunters opening day of firearms. This property fills up every opening day with the 300 hunters which is 1 hunter per 15 acres or 42 hunters per sq mile. Please consider the safety of hunters in the field while reviewing this rule change as high hunter density, flat terrain, and bullets that can travel up to 3 miles is a recipe for trouble. Not to mention allowing semi auto guns to be used for hunting. This allows hunters to shoot multiple rounds at running deer which a lot do. If this happens with a high powered rifle in a high hunter density area with flat terrain the probability of a hunting accident increases exponentially.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 5:57:14 PM

Commenter Name Mark Hardig
City Schererville **County** LAKE **State** IN
E-Mail Address mhardig@aol.com

Comments I hope this proposal goes through, the restrictions on firearms have been impractical for some time.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 5:59:39 PM

Commenter Name Brad Blickenstaff
City Auburn **County** DEKALB **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address Blick332@yahoo.com

Comments I would be in favor of the change

Comment Received 12/3/2014 5:59:57 PM

Commenter Name Randall L. Maitland Sr.

City Dale County **SPENCER State** Indiana

E-Mail Address rlmaitland@att.net

Comments I would like to express my strong support for this proposed rule change, specifically in regard to that portion amending 312 IAC 9-3-3. I fully agree with the reasoning of the DNR as stated in the Proposed Rule Change notification. I feel this would provide a significant enhancement to Indiana deer hunters and place us on par with hunters in adjoining states. The increased interest in hunting predators such as coyote have increased the use of high powered center fire rifles with no negative consequences. I believe the same experience will be observed with this change. In addition, the majority of deer hunters shoot from elevated stands which further reduces the probability of missed shots becoming a safety hazard. I respectfully request this change be implemented with the 2015 deer season.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 6:02:26 PM

Commenter Name Randall I Davis

City eaton County **DELAWARE State** Indiana

E-Mail Address jdavis720@hotmail.com

Comments I really don't think high power rifles are necessary to hunt deer in this state. It's to flat and lots of open space it just asking for trouble. Not that it matters that's my personal opinion. Thanks

Comment Received 12/3/2014 6:02:49 PM

Commenter Name Thomas boardman

City Rockville **County** PARKE **State** Indiana

Organization (optional) TB Control Systems, Inc.

E-Mail Address thomas.a.boardman@me.com

Comments In regards to using high powered rifles to deer hunt, I am against it. I feel that it would be a mistake to allow this. When firearm season comes upon us it seems that everybody and their brother are in the woods to the point where it makes me nervous just by having all those people around te woods I hunt. It's a miracle more people aren't hurt every year, now you want to give people the capability to shoot a deer 500, 600 or more yards away? I served in the Marine Corps I know how far many rounds will travel. We are harvesting record numbers now as is why change it? I am an archery hunter, even through firearm season not because I despise firearms but because I believe in hunting, getting close to your target by studying them over time during season or before season. I know other states allow high powered rifles to take whitetails however the ones that come to mind are large states in size. I just don't want stray bullets flying into my woods or to hit me or my kids.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 6:04:09 PM

Commenter Name Nathan Pate

City Paoli **County** ORANGE **State** IN

Organization (optional) Mr.

E-Mail Address socomfy@gmail.com

Comments On the legality of taking frogs with .22 "bird shot"-

As far as I know this shot is lead, and therefore a danger and hazard to waterfowl and other wildlife. In my opinion, any .22 used to take frogs must use only lead-free ammo.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 6:04:35 PM

Commenter Name Mitch Lyons

City Valparaiso **County** PORTER **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address mitch.lisa@comcast.net

Comments I agree with these changes.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 6:08:27 PM

Commenter Name Matthew Millsaps

City Muncie **County** DELAWARE **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address Mbmillsaps80@gmail.com

Comments Let high powered centerfire rifles in Indiana! If I can use a smokeless muzzleloader that is accurate out to 400 yards, then what's the difference? Pass it please!

Comment Received 12/3/2014 6:09:47 PM

Commenter Name Wayne Langman

City Terre Haute **County** VIGO **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address sgtwal@aol.com

Comments I support these changes.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 6:12:25 PM

Commenter Name Anthony Smith

City Pendleton **County** MADISON **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address anthony.smith22383@gmail.com

Comments The proposed rule changes regarding deer hunting are just what myself and numerous other deer hunters have been hoping to see for many, many years. As an Army Veteran, I, along with several Veteran friends, love to shoot our bolt-and lever-action rifles regularly, and enjoy hunting neighboring states with our rifles. While I applaud the state for allowing rifles with pistol cartridges several years back now, not many of us wanted to go out and purchase another rifle that would only be used during hunting season (like a .44 or .357). For many younger hunters like myself with families, spending \$400 or more (\$600 seems to be about average for a .44 rifle) is not economically feasible. In addition, we use our rifles on other game as well (namely coyote). Allowing high-powered rifles would let us be able to use our current equipment and not need to have different (read expensive) equipment when changing from one hunting season to the next. I myself do not own a shotgun because I do not like to have weapons just sit in my cabinet for 11 1/2 months out of the year, as I do not enjoy shooting shotguns recreationally.

Additionally, this could be good for the state on many different levels. People deciding to buy new rifles would put more money into local economies. Also, I know friends who live out of state who would love to take an Indiana buck, and would not mind purchasing the non-resident licenses, but will not hunt with anything other than their rifle; i.e., this would potentially bring the state more income to be utilized in furthering outdoor opportunities state-wide. And lastly, it would allow another opportunity to take younger children deer hunting who do not like to or can not physically handle the size or recoil of a shotgun. I personally have three children who would love to hunt, and that I would love to take, but they don't like the recoil of my brother's shotguns, but who each have their own rifles in appropriate sizes and calibers for their size. They would relish the opportunity to harvest a deer with "their" personal rifles.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 6:15:35 PM

Commenter Name Chris Dye

City Brookston **County** WHITE **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address cdye@westsidetractorsales.com

Comments I am against the rule change to allow high powered rifles to hunt deer.

I believe it is a safety issue. I hear too many hunters in the wood with shotguns. With "happy Trigger fingers". They fire 3 to 5 shots within a 10 second window. More than likely at a running deer.

I feel high powered rifles will just increase the risk of hunters getting hit by stray bullets.

I know if this law passes, I will personally not be hunting during the firearm seasons. For the above stated reason.

Thank You,

Chris Dye

Comment Received 12/3/2014 6:18:03 PM

Commenter Name Shaun Hinton

City Anderson **County** MADISON **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address Shaunhinton@yahoo.com

Comments I would like to comment on the proposed rule change to allow "high powered" rifles during deer season. I have been hunting deer in Indiana for 25 years. I began hunting as a youth and hunt with archery, muzzleloader and the current legal rifle cartridges. I believe the use of all high powered rifles COULD be a great thing. I also believe it could lead to more injured or wounded deer. I feel this way because of the number of hunters that are not currently "riflemen", and will believe they are capable of shooting deer at extended distances because they have a magnum rifle. It is bittersweet for me to say that I AM in favor of this rule, however I do have some concerns with the use of magnum cartridges.

Thank you,

Shaun

Comment Received 12/3/2014 6:18:04 PM

Commenter Name Jerry helsley

City Francisco **County** GIBSON **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address helsleyjerry@gmail.com

Comments No to rifle hunting for deer

Comment Received 12/3/2014 6:20:21 PM

Commenter Name James Wiley

City Huntington **County** HUNTINGTON **State** IN

E-Mail Address Wiley21@peoplepc.com

Comments With the use of high powered rifle I have no problem with, we should however increase the amount of hunter orange required during the firearms season. At least require a vest along with a hat. A hunter orange jacket, shirt. Many western states require more than just a orange hat. With longer shooting distance the potential is greater for incidents.

Thanks. James Wiley

Comment Received 12/3/2014 6:20:39 PM

<p>Commenter Name michael yarnelle City griffith County LAKE State indiana E-Mail Address mkyarnelle@att.net Comments Very simple, who will be liable in the state house for the first stray bullet that travels through a home and kills someone? The trajectory, velocities and general lack of terrain are a recipe for an issue/event. And an issue/event in this situation will result in serious injury. The number of deer hunters compared to coyote or varmint hunters is most likely logarithmic increasing further and issue/event. Comment Received 12/3/2014 6:21:33 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Mark Hopkins City Chesterton County PORTER State Indiana E-Mail Address redtailhawk6@comcast.net Comments I urge you to remove wording regarding "repeal of a Lifetime Hunting Liscense". When purchased it means "til I die"...not when a politician decides to no longer honor the LTL. I am in favor of allowing rifles into the firearms season. Comment Received 12/3/2014 6:22:21 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Jon Oswald City Bremen County MARSHALL State Indiana E-Mail Address jgoswald@msn.com Comments Strongly disagree with caliber changes for deer hunting. Comment Received 12/3/2014 6:23:05 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Dan Woolwine City Guilford County DEARBORN State In E-Mail Address Hizzgrizz@hotmail.com Comments I would love for the legal rifles to stay the same as it is currently. I feel there is no need for high powered rifles. Where I live, (Dearborn County) there are houses around almost every patch of woods. Really don't want a guy with a 7mm mag sitting 150 yards behind my house. If inevitable, maybe only legal in the less populated counties? Comment Received 12/3/2014 6:23:25 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Bernard Lecher City Kingwood County Out of State State Texas E-Mail Address bglecher@gmail.com Comments I'm originally from Indiana and a lifetime hunting license holder. I frequently return to IN to hunt wild turkey and whitetail deer on family owned land in Franklin County. I'm writing to comment on the proposed rule change 312 IAC 9-3-3. I'm in favor of amending the legal firearms to include centerfire rifle cartridges of 0.243" and larger. Comment Received 12/3/2014 6:23:53 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name RICHARD P. GOOD City SCHERERVILLE County LAKE State INDIANA E-Mail Address D_CGOOD1934@COMCAST.NET Comments I am in favor of using a high powered rifle for deer hunting as stated on the proposed amendment to the rules governing deer hunting. Comment Received 12/3/2014 6:27:32 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Floyd Harkins III City Indianapolis County MARION State Indiana E-Mail Address Wrench_1@comcast.net Comments I support the firearms to include high powered rifles of .243 or larger. It is about time Indiana catches up to modern hunting laws!! Thank you! Comment Received 12/3/2014 6:31:58 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Jon Oswald City Bremen County MARSHALL State Indiana E-Mail Address jgoswald@msn.com Comments Strongly disagree with changing the limit and size for keeping Bluegill. This fish should not have restrictions because they are so plentiful. If one can't catch and keep this specie then there is a problem with the particular lake and the IDNR should concentrate on that problem lake. Comment Received 12/3/2014 6:32:18 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Adam Congleton City Evansville County VANDERBURGH State IN E-Mail Address solocam12@yahoo.com Comments Allowing the use of high powered rifles is idiotic. It is not good for the people or the deer. Indiana's terrain is too flat and too populated for rifles like this. Indiana's deer population is already declining quickly, no need for stronger rifles. Comment Received 12/3/2014 6:34:42 PM</p>

<p>Commenter Name Anthony Phillips City Corydon County HARRISON State Indiana E-Mail Address indianaguy19@msn.com Comments It's about time we get to use actual rifles for deer season. Way to go on this proposal. It keeps getting better here in Indiana. Comment Received 12/3/2014 6:37:01 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Michael May City Westport County DECATUR State Indiana E-Mail Address maybigdogs@comcast.net Comments This comment is for the rule change of 312IAC 9-3-3 I have hunted many counties in Indiana in the last several years and there are only very few that I think a .243 or larger caliber high powered rifle should be allowed. I have many Firearms and shoot a lot in a years time and I know the kind of damage these high powered rifles could have on things. I think it would be a big mistake to legalize most high powered rifles for deer hunting in Indiana. With that said I also believe that there are a few calibers that should be legal in Indiana and don't know why they have not been made so. The 30-30 Winchester, 35 Remington, and the .45/70 Government. These calibers should be made legal for Indiana deer hunting because they are no more dangerous than today's modern muzzleloading rifles that are legal. If high powered rifles from .243 and larger were to be made legal for Indiana I would do it on a county basis. Thanks Comment Received 12/3/2014 6:37:37 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name DeWayne Glick City Fortwayne County ALLEN State Indiana E-Mail Address Buckmaster1@frontier.com Comments The rule change and subsequent result of allowing the use of ---basically---"high powered rifles" is absolutely insane!!! The close proximity of structures and densely populated areas, which cover most Indiana hunting grounds. And the number of hunters per acre and per capita, make these weapons entirely inappropriate for use in this state, not to mention extremely unsafe! I would refer to the state of Minnesota which limits this type of weapon only to the northern part of the state where the geography and population makes it a safe weapon---they also restrict the southern part of the state to shotguns where the population more closely resembles that of Indiana. I further believe that these types of cartridges should not be allowed in any type of hand gun for the same reasons I have listed. The current use of pistol caliber rifles is more than adequate for most hunting situations in Indiana. As someone who has hunted deer most of my life in Indiana, as an avid shooting enthusiast, but most importantly as someone who does not wish to be shot accidentally by an idiot with a high powered rifle from two miles away---I would sincerely hope that from the safety aspect alone that this rule change would not even be given a vote. As a final thought we as responsible gun owners and hunting enthusiasts do not need any more bad press due to the state passing a bogus law like this that will no doubt end in tragedy through the accidental death of not only hunters afield but also innocent bystanders hit by the long range bullet flight of such weapons. Thank you Comment Received 12/3/2014 6:37:44 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name charles kidwell City danville County VERMILLION State Illinois E-Mail Address crkidwell@nwcable.net Comments i don't think it's a good idea to open up the rifles for deer hunting. i do understand that today's muzzleloaders will shoot like a rifle. i feel that we are still a little wide open and flat to have a rifle season. i have property in indiana which i do hunt and i'd feel a little uneasy if we were allowed to shoot rifles. with the availability of rifles i think people might just take that unnecessary really long shot sending lead way down range. thank you Comment Received 12/3/2014 6:37:58 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Garrett reeves City north Vernon County JENNINGS State Indiana E-Mail Address greeves04@yahoo.com Comments I'm very excited by the proposed rule changes for the rifle caliber. We have over paid for rifles and ammo. For too long. This is of course when we are lucky enough to find some on the shelf somewhere. Please vote this in hoosier hunters will save money and hopefully harvest more deer. According to the members on the hunting forums I've talked with hunters have been seeing fewer and fewer deer over the last two years maybe we can stop these huge bonus antler less seasons or lower the number. Comment Received 12/3/2014 6:39:46 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Kelly bishop City Dana County VERMILLION State Indiana E-Mail Address wyley46@sbcglobal.net Comments I think doing away with the maximum cartridge length would be fine there are wildcat cartridges out there now that are just about the same as some of the calibers that it would open up it also may get some hunters interested in the sport Comment Received 12/3/2014 6:43:01 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name chris cooper City Valparaiso County PORTER State Indiana</p>

E-Mail Address payin2much4cable@comcast.net
Comments High power rifle hunting would boost the economy through the sale of guns. I'd but one even though the muzzle loader I use can shoot well over 300 yds. The limits are the limits and a rifle only gives you another option to get there. I hope I'll be shopping for a rifle after the decision.
Comment Received 12/3/2014 6:50:28 PM

Commenter Name Randy Spence
City Fishers **County** HAMILTON **State** IN
E-Mail Address randyspence@comcast.net
Comments Please don't allow any additional rifles to be added to the list of weapons allowed. It is already dangerous enough out in the woods during gun season. If people want to kill a deer they may have to work a little harder for it and get closer to the deer. Hunt the deer....not sit 300 yds away and take shots at everything that moves.
Comment Received 12/3/2014 6:51:17 PM

Commenter Name Brent Pavay
City Versailles **County** RIPLEY **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address mpavay11@comcast.net
Comments I do not agree with in. allowing hunters to use rifles for deer hunting. there are a lot of populated areas and not the wide open ranges like out west, someone or someones property will get shot by stray bullets. I do not think it would be safe.
Comment Received 12/3/2014 6:54:08 PM

Commenter Name Andy Cordonnier
City Mason **County** OHIO **State** Ohio
E-Mail Address cordonnieram@gmail.com
Comments I own 53 acres of hunting ground in switzerland county. I support the proposal to allow high powered rifles and the proposed rules on coyotes.
 I wish the proposal to allow salt blocks for deer would have made the list also.
Comment Received 12/3/2014 6:54:11 PM

Commenter Name larry burton
City trafalgar **County** JOHNSON **State** indiana
E-Mail Address larmela12@hotmail.com
Comments I support the use of highpowered rifles to deer hunt,panfish limits should be raised,grouse hunting should be suspended due to lack of habitat and falling population,limits on deer are adequate and would also like to see the lifetime licenses return.
Comment Received 12/3/2014 6:54:49 PM

Commenter Name Craig Travis
City Westville **County** LAPORTE **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address cstsendit@gmail.com
Comments I am for this bill- and especially for opening up the deer firearms season to use conventional center fire rifles. It makes no sense that coyote hunter in the state of Indiana can go out in the dead of night and hunt predators with a 50BMG and thermal optics if they wish to do so. That is legal, but taking a deer in Indiana with a 30-06 center fire rifle is not. Today's Muzzle Loaders have 500yd capabilities, so the high power rifle injury risk scary is really an invalid argument.
Comment Received 12/3/2014 6:57:01 PM

Commenter Name Josh Springer
City Newburgh **County** WARRICK **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address springerj23@hotmail.com
Comments I have lived in Indiana since 2006, but have never deer hunted here because of the restrictions of high powered rifles. I have always and continue to hunt in my home state of Ky where high powered rifles are allowed. Allowing high powered rifles to be used in Indiana would be a positive decision. Hunters would be more accurate and be allowed somewhat of extended effective range. Safety concerns are no different with high powered rifles than slug guns or muzzleloaders. Gun safety is gun safety. An idiot with a shotgun or muzzleloader is no safer than an idiot with a high powered rifle. Having rifle hunted for 23 years with a high powered rifle I do not see an increased safety concern. Personally for me, having the ability to hunt in Indiana with a high powered rifle would give me more desire to find ground to hunt and spend money on tags in my current resident state, than going out of state to do so.
Comment Received 12/3/2014 6:58:14 PM

Commenter Name Curt Mayfield
City Nashville **County** BROWN **State** IN
E-Mail Address curtmayfield@gmail.com
Comments A DNR biologist once told me that hunters could never kill enough grouse to be a threat to the grouse population. What has changed? Let's keep one week in November open to grouse hunting. And let's get off our butts and do something to improve grouse hunting in Indiana. The mission of the Grouse Society is to improve grouse habitat. They have

a number of projects throughout the Midwest. None are in Indiana. What is the mission of the DNR? Lately it seems that the State Forests have been turned over to the Lumbermans Association. Do you care about the future of hunting in Indiana? Sure we have deer and turkey but they are mostly on private land where there's no hunting allowed. I have hunted in Indiana for over 40 years and current status of hunting in our state is as bad as I have ever seen. Closing the grouse season is an admission of failure on the part of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 6:59:02 PM

Commenter Name Brian Walls
City Greenwood **County** JOHNSON **State** indiana
E-Mail Address brian@aasclic.net

Comments I'm in favor of proposed changes for deer hunting allowing rifles and in favor of proposed otter trapping season. I would also like to see a limited bobcat trapping season.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 6:59:06 PM

Commenter Name Daniel Wooten
City Muncie **County** DELAWARE **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address Dwooten01@hotmail.com

Comments Legalizing rifles during firearm season is a horrible idea. Our tracts of land are to small. Also as I hunter I am proud of the quality of big bucks that are being taken. Indiana is an up and coming big buck state and if it is legalized the quality will go down and hunters will not come here to hunt anymore. It's also a huge safety concern. We all hunt close to our neighbors and I am scared someone will kill one of my family members my children or myself. It works in Kansas because they have 20000 acres that they can hunt and no one is around to get shot most of the time. I think firearms seasons should be shorter anyway. Take one week out of shotgun season and imagine the buck quality we could have! Safety is my number one concern though. Thanks

Comment Received 12/3/2014 7:00:33 PM

Commenter Name Todd Bury
City Owensville **County** GIBSON **State** IN
E-Mail Address tbury02@frontier.com

Comments Love the idea of using rifle!!

Comment Received 12/3/2014 7:02:25 PM

Commenter Name Bob Jackson
City newberry **County** MARTIN **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address bjackson9@yahoo.com

Comments I have No problem with any of these proposed changes ! I own and operate a small Farm in both Martin and Greene Counties where a number of people Deer hunt. I believe the use of Rifles such as the .30-30 and others mentioned would if anything improve humane Kills and make hunters safer with the improved accuracy.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 7:03:00 PM

Commenter Name Ryan Bowen
City Hagerstown **County** WAYNE **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address bowen2881@gmail.com

Comments I feel that the firearm season should be limited to shotguns or handguns with a revolving cylinder only. Caliber restrictions on the handguns should be a diameter of .357 or above. There are too many unethical and careless people to allow any rifle hunting opportunities during deer season in our state.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 7:03:14 PM

Commenter Name Gary W Allee
City Greencastle **County** PUTNAM **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address sierra@ccrtc.com

Comments The change in rifle case max. is a great thing. There never should have been a max. length to start with.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 7:06:13 PM

Commenter Name Brett Hillenbrand
City Chandler **County** WARRICK **State** In
E-Mail Address brethillenbrand@yahoo.com

Comments Here in the southern part of the state me and most of the guys i hunt with are seeing fewer and fewer deer. The last thing the DNR needs to do is create any rule that will raise the total kill. Harvest numbers are down over the past 2 years and fewer deer is the reason. A proposal like this should be voted on by license holders, not a group of 4 or 5.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 7:06:22 PM

Commenter Name Matt Englert
City Dubois **County** DUBOIS **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address matt.engliert@Gmail.com

Comments I support the use of high powered rifles in Indiana. My muzzleloader will shoot 500 yards or further a high powered rifle will do so more accurately. You have already opened the use of crossbows during bow season, why not open the use of rifles as well. I also know that rifles are much more accurate at further distances than any shotgun or muzzleloader can be, thus resulting in more humane deer kills with less injured and suffering deer getting away and not being recovered. Thank you for your time.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 7:06:30 PM

Commenter Name John Walters

City Petersburg **County** PIKE **State** IN

E-Mail Address jtwalters1980@gmail.com

Comments It's about time to update the rules to allow rifles in the firearms season! Thank you!

Comment Received 12/3/2014 7:08:16 PM

Commenter Name Josh Cline

City Sand Lake **County** Out of State **State** Michigan

E-Mail Address joshcline@hotmail.com

Comments I have hunted in Indiana since the age of 10 And off/on since I moved to Michigan in 2000. I am now 36 and believe Indiana's one buck rule and shotgun rules in particular are why I come to Indiana to hunt. I usually always see mature deer and that's what makes my hunts here fun. I think the high powered rifle rule would change the hunting pressure in so many different ways and none of them for the better. I also believe it is to flat and open of terrain at least in northern IN to be as safe as you hope. Northern Michigan and Kentucky have a totally different landscape than most of Indiana. I hope this input helps.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 7:11:36 PM

Commenter Name Phillip Evans

City Elberfeld **County** WARRICK **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address pmevans155@gmail.com

Comments I am in support of proposed changes.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 7:15:53 PM

Commenter Name Eric Tichenor

City Greensburg **County** DECATUR **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address ertichenor@etczone.com

Comments I am in favor of changing the rifle caliber to .243 and up for deer hunting. A 12 gauge shotgun can be brutal to target practice with, while a rifle can be built to operate with very low recoil. Add a suppressor(I have one legally) and your ears won't ring for hours after you harvest a whitetail or two. Thank you so much for considering to open this up for Indiana deer hunters.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 7:18:46 PM

Commenter Name Elmer Graber

City peru **County** MIAMI **State** IN

E-Mail Address dozer@myomnicity.com

Comments IN dose not have need of a high power rifle season. What we need is a shorter bow season. And less doe tags for sale!!!! Who really needs to kill that many deer!!!!? If I can not sell deer meat ,Why dose the DNR sell me as many doe tags as I want to BUY??! If I purchased every Bonus doe tag in IN how many DEER COULD I HARVEST! in 2014??

Comment Received 12/3/2014 7:21:13 PM

Commenter Name Elmer Graber

City peru **County** MIAMI **State** IN

E-Mail Address dozer@myomnicity.com

Comments IN dose not have need of a high power rifle season. What we need is a shorter bow season. And less doe tags for sale!!!! Who really needs to kill that many deer!!!!? If I can not sell deer meat ,Why dose the DNR sell me as many doe tags as I want to BUY??! If I purchased every Bonus doe tag in IN how many DEER COULD I HARVEST! in 2014??

Comment Received 12/3/2014 7:22:07 PM

Commenter Name steve ehinger

City spencerville **County** DEKALB **State** in

E-Mail Address ebelhsteve@att.net

Comments I am OPPOSED to the proposed changes to the allowed deer firearm weapons for these reasons: -they encourage longer less sure shot opportunities which result in greater likelihood of wounding deer, - even most rural areas are populated enough that stray bullets have a significant chance of injuring others or damaging property, - it is not that hard to kill deer with the weapons already legal,

Comment Received 12/3/2014 7:22:11 PM

Commenter Name Elmer Graber

City peru **County** MIAMI **State** IN

E-Mail Address dozer@myomnicity.com

Comments IN dose not have need of a high power rifle season. What we need is a shorter bow season. And less doe tags for sale!!!! Who really needs to kill that many deer!!!!? If I can not sell deer meat ,Why dose the DNR sell me as many doe tags as I want to BUY??! If I purchased every Bonus doe tag in IN how many DEER COULD I HARVEST! in 2014??
Comment Received 12/3/2014 7:24:54 PM

Commenter Name Elmer Graber
City peru **County** MIAMI **State** IN
E-Mail Address dozer@myomnicity.com
Comments IN dose not have need of a high power rifle season. What we need is a shorter bow season. And less doe tags for sale!!!! Who really needs to kill that many deer!!!!? If I can not sell deer meat ,Why dose the DNR sell me as many doe tags as I want to BUY??! If I purchased every Bonus doe tag in IN how many DEER COULD I HARVEST! in 2014??
Comment Received 12/3/2014 7:25:46 PM

Commenter Name Matthew Plano
City Sandborn **County** GREENE **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address Plano7272@yahoo.com
Comments I think High powered rifles should be allowed.
Comment Received 12/3/2014 7:25:51 PM

Commenter Name Kim Cone
City Warsaw **County** KOSCIUSKO **State** IN
E-Mail Address kim.cone@efca.org
Comments To whom it may concern,

I wish to applaud the way that the Indiana DNR seems to truly listen to its constituency, truly seems to give that constituency a voice and is willing to be flexible and change laws to suit changes in the circumstances. All the above is commendable.

I do not know enough about many of the proposals to be able to comment with knowledge. I'm inclined to trust those scientists who are basing their decisions on hard data.

I do strongly approve the move to legalize the use of high powered rifles. I trust and hope that hunters will live up to this trust and do their very best to make sure of what is behind their targets.

Thanks for all you do to make our outdoors experiences so rich!

With gratitude,

Kim Cone
Comment Received 12/3/2014 7:26:55 PM

Commenter Name Elmer Graber
City peru **County** MIAMI **State** IN
E-Mail Address dozer@myomnicity.com
Comments IN dose not have need of a high power rifle season. What we need is a shorter bow season. And less doe tags for sale!!!! Who really needs to kill that many deer!!!!? If I can not sell deer meat ,Why dose the DNR sell me as many doe tags as I want to BUY??! If I purchased every Bonus doe tag in IN how many DEER COULD I HARVEST! in 2014??
Comment Received 12/3/2014 7:27:04 PM

Commenter Name Josh Faulkenburg
City Greenville **County** FLOYD **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address jfaulkenburg@gmail.com
Comments I think the proposal to allow .243 or larger rifles in the state of indiana is a good move for the hoosier state. I think the hunter ed courses should be enforced for folks to make sure they have proper identification of targets and backstops before firing a rifle. Also that they shouldn't be allowed to be fired within certain distances of homes. Other than that if Kentucky should have it then we should have it also. We share a lot of the similar terrain and we have a lot of ethical hunters. Some folks will still choose to hunt with shotguns and pistols also. It is just nice to have options!!
Comment Received 12/3/2014 7:30:17 PM

Commenter Name Steve Shawd
City Leo **County** ALLEN **State** IN
E-Mail Address sdshawd@hotmail.com
Comments I would like to see the rule changed to allow for the use of high powered rifle
Comment Received 12/3/2014 7:31:57 PM

Commenter Name Josh buskirk
City Linton **County** GREENE **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address buzz_069@hotmail.com
Comments I for one am very much in favor of adopting the new rifle laws. Many states in the surrounding area have had

great success allowing rifles for deer hunting. Not only does this expand the opportunities for many deer hunters it will also help bring a younger generation to hunting as many of these rifles do not have the felt recoil that is often too much for a young person that is trying to learn with a shot gun. Thanks for hearing my opinion. I am much in favor of this proposed law.
Comment Received 12/3/2014 7:33:03 PM

Commenter Name Doug Herndon
City Bloomfield **County** GREENE **State** Indiana
Organization (optional) Herndon's Gun & Ammo
E-Mail Address herndon@wispaninternet.com
Comments A .243 is too large. Have you even seen or shot one? This rule will allow people to shoot deer from great distances without even considering the terrain around the deer they spot through binoculars. Can you imagine some moron that owns a .50 BMG rifle shooting at your house...oh wait...sorry...I had no idea this projectile would penetrate so much stuff??? How about legalizing good deer guns like the .450 Marlin, .444, .35 Rem., .30-30, .45-70 and stuff like that? This will allow cleaner kills with a longer range, but keep things safe. I gain to profit from a rule on all high powered rifle sales, but I oppose the use of them in our area. I believe we are catering to the few that would like to kill a deer and not hunt one. I see this as unsafe and definitely unnecessary. Thank you.
Comment Received 12/3/2014 7:33:15 PM

Commenter Name Bob Bonewitz
City Andrews **County** HUNTINGTON **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address vmt_hntr@hotmail.com
Comments Allowing the use of 243 caliber and larger in rifles is not adhering to the original intent of the short range calibers in long guns for deer hunting. Maybe the wording should be changed to read 357 caliber and larger, longer than 1.16" case and a straight wall cartridge. This would eliminate all high power(long range) cartridges in a rifle.
Comment Received 12/3/2014 7:34:52 PM

Commenter Name steven bullard
City shelbyville **County** SHELBY **State** indiana
E-Mail Address s.bullard625@comcast.net
Comments rule changes seem good to me. like the catfish changes. go for it
Comment Received 12/3/2014 7:36:49 PM

Commenter Name Bradley Lillpop
City Corydon **County** HARRISON **State** IN
E-Mail Address broketeelimb@hotmail.com
Comments Avid hunter for 10 years now. I do not support amending the legal hunting equipment to allow high powered rifles. The risk are too great. Peoples houses, cars, livestock, will be damaged, if not worse. This state with its small tracks of property is just too densely populated, at least in the southern part, to support this amendment. I would fear for my safety as a hunter. Let alone have to worry about the damage to my house, barns, cars, and the safety of other humans! I may not even go hunting do to the fear of my safety. There are too many other negligent hunters, that are used to taking ill advised shots with their short ranged weapons, to turn loose with 600 yrd guns. That is if they hit their target, we could be talking miles of bullet trajectory on a miss. This puts me and the general public, and our properties in too much jeopardy. I can not support this in any form. Please care for my safety. The 300 yard guns we have now are powerful enough.
Comment Received 12/3/2014 7:36:58 PM

Commenter Name Michael Morgan
City Noblesville **County** HAMILTON **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address mmorgan@westfield.in.gov
Comments To whom this May concern,
 The rule that I'm commenting on is the proposed new limit on bluegill. What is driving this rule change? Are the bluegill populations down throughout the state? Are fishermen complaining about the lack of bluegill that they are catching? Instead of looking at changing the rule to create a limit on a fish that has no problem reproducing numbers that can sustain maybe someone should look at management of the bodies of water throughout the state. For an example, Dogwood Lake. I have been going fishing there for several years and this past spring I had a fishing trip there and was really disappointed due to the lack of areas to fish due to the large excess of vegetation. Fish spawn on the banks and the vegetation was so thick that it was unfishable. At the rate the vegetation is growing, the fishing will only get worse and the size limit and limit requirements will not be needed
Comment Received 12/3/2014 7:37:34 PM

Commenter Name Tim Kirk
City Sandborn **County** KNOX **State** indiana
E-Mail Address serions@hotmail.com
Comments In Knox county I do not think it is a good idea to allow high-powered rifles to be used for hunting deer. It is very flat here. I have lived in Tippecanoe and Montgomery also and I think they are too flat as well. I think it will also cause more poaching problems.
Comment Received 12/3/2014 7:38:03 PM

Commenter Name Grant stockrahm

<p>City Terre haute County VIGO State Indiana E-Mail Address Stockrahm@gmail.com Comments We need a high power rifle season in Indiana because I have hunted with high power rifles before in other states and there was nothing like it. Indiana is losing revenue because of the absents of this season. Comment Received 12/3/2014 7:38:22 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name ronald stegman City Guilford County DEARBORN State Indiana E-Mail Address mstegman2@embarqmail.com Comments I do not want any hunter near my property nor hunting with a high powered rifle. There have been enough problems in the past. Who is now wanting this to take place? My neighbors, i believe, would agree. Thank you. Comment Received 12/3/2014 7:39:41 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name David D. Diehl City Fremont County STEUBEN State INDIANA E-Mail Address diehd1@hotmail.com Comments I feel that the use of a high powered rifle is not warranted especially in the northern part of the state. I think that this area is too populated. I also feel that hunters need to learn how to properly use a shotgun before the use of high powered rifles should even be considered. Thank you Comment Received 12/3/2014 7:40:08 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Anthony R. Walters City Montezuma County PARKE State Indiana E-Mail Address gloriaj1229@att.net Comments I do not think that the adoption of high powered rifles for deer hunting should pass. So much of the hunting in this area is farms with small patches of woods, with dwellings nearby. I feel that pistols or rifles that shoot pistol cartridges are OK, but that high powered rifle cartridges shoot to far and pose a real danger to hunters as well as people living in the area! Comment Received 12/3/2014 7:42:10 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Bruce Gonyea City Indianapolis County SULLIVAN State Indiana E-Mail Address brucegonyea@hotmail.com Comments As I am sure you know, there are a number of states that currently permit the use of larger caliber hunting rifles. I am aware that there have been studies done evaluating hunting accidents and the weapons involved. One study I have seen, from 1994, indicates that a significant number of fatalities in two party accidents involve hunters who are 'out of sight'. Would allowing the use of weapons which shoot farther not increase the odds of more accidents for out-of-sight hunters? This would seem to be something that needs to be carefully evaluated before making a rule change. Also, hunter safety training done previously may not emphasize risks of higher powered rifles. Will hunters have to take hunter safety refreshers? Things to consider... http://www.ihea.com/_assets/documents/ihea1994.pdf Comment Received 12/3/2014 7:42:51 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Marcos Thomaz Rubino City Thorntown County BOONE State Indiana E-Mail Address mtrubino@hotmail.com Comments I would like to see high powered rifles become legal for deer hunting Comment Received 12/3/2014 7:43:30 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name jeremy meadows City anderson County MADISON State IN E-Mail Address jem_grand@yahoo.com Comments I would like to comment on the proposed use of high powered rifles for deer hunting. I have always thought it was illogical not to be able to use these for deer hunting in this state. But yet i can use this rifle for coyote. My shotgun and muzzle loader are no different in some aspects . though i and most other hunters are more accurate when using a high powered rifle such as 30-30, 308 win. 30-06, etc, Being more accurate allows for more humane kills and less wounded and lost animals. I have always felt the state on indiana did not understand this. A lot of these rifle provide less recoil, faster loading in case of miss. better accuracy then the equipment we are allowed now. Which mean safer and more humane kills.. i dont believe it will cause any more accidents then what there is now, It is my hope that you will listen to us hunters and put this rule in effect.. I love hunting and the allowing of this new rifle change will make me and others better and more success full hunters. Thank you Comment Received 12/3/2014 7:45:24 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Craig Hill City carmel County HAMILTON State Indiana</p>

<p>E-Mail Address Craighill@gmail.com</p> <p>Comments I don't like the addition of the woods, "before repealed" to lifetime licenses. Lifetime means just that, "lifetime". A deal is a deal. The state shouldn't go back on its promise.</p> <p>Comment Received 12/3/2014 7:47:29 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Elmer Graber</p> <p>City peru County MIAMI State IN</p> <p>E-Mail Address dozer@myomnicity.com</p> <p>Comments IN dose not have need of a high power rifle season. What we need is a shorter bow season. And less doe tags for sale!!!! Who really needs to kill that many deer!!??? If I can not sell deer meat ,Why dose the DNR sell me as many doe tags as I want to BUY??? If I purchased every Bonus doe tag in IN how many DEER COULD I HARVEST! in 2014??</p> <p>Comment Received 12/3/2014 7:48:37 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Elmer Graber</p> <p>City peru County MIAMI State IN</p> <p>E-Mail Address dozer@myomnicity.com</p> <p>Comments IN dose not have need of a high power rifle season. What we need is a shorter bow season. And less doe tags for sale!!!! Who really needs to kill that many deer!!??? If I can not sell deer meat ,Why dose the DNR sell me as many doe tags as I want to BUY??? If I purchased every Bonus doe tag in IN how many DEER COULD I HARVEST! in 2014??</p> <p>Comment Received 12/3/2014 7:52:07 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name David Braun</p> <p>City Huntingburg County DUBOIS State Indiana</p> <p>E-Mail Address davidbraun@insightbb.com</p> <p>Comments Deer gun season is to long. High powered rifle should not be allowed. The entire gun season should not last more than three weekends with the two weeks between and that should be split between regular fire arm and muzzle loader. Our quality of and quantity of mature deer is very poor in this state. I see less deer every year. Cross bow should be limited to antler less or antler during firearm season. We probably have one of the longest deer seasons on the country for firearm season</p> <p>Comment Received 12/3/2014 7:52:44 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Joshua Barbee</p> <p>City Anderson County MADISON State Indiana</p> <p>E-Mail Address joshbarbee310@yahoo.com</p> <p>Comments If high powered rifles are legalized for deer hunting, Im worried that trophy class bucks would once again become scarce. A lot of deer wouldn't have as much of a chance to reach maturity. High powered rifles would make them too easy to pick off at a distance. The one buck rule has helped a lot and Ive seen a lot more nice bucks in recent years compared to the past. I'm afraid if the rule is passed, they would all be wiped out. Part of the fun and excitement is waiting patiently for close encounters, not picking them off 300 yards away walking across some field. I believe a true sportsman of the woods would agree with my comment. We should just stick with using the firearms we use now.</p> <p>Comment Received 12/3/2014 7:52:59 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Dan Drakulich</p> <p>City Crown Point County LAKE State Indiana</p> <p>E-Mail Address Dedrakulich@yahoo.com</p> <p>Comments Would love to see the use of firearms for deer pass , minimum .243 caliber. Y</p> <p>Comment Received 12/3/2014 7:54:13 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Randy spence</p> <p>City Knightstown County HENRY State Indiana</p> <p>E-Mail Address Rspenceus@yahoo.com</p> <p>Comments I vote in favor of allowing normal rifle hunting calibers for deer hunting . You can coyote hunt with them and the same calibers in pistol so why not? There will be no more danger as some will say</p> <p>Comment Received 12/3/2014 7:54:33 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Sam Billings</p> <p>City Waynetown County MONTGOMERY State Indiana</p> <p>E-Mail Address samandnicci@sbcglobal.net</p> <p>Comments If using a high powered rifle for deer hunting, can you set a minimum bullet weight? Heavier bullets and ballistic tips?</p> <p>Comment Received 12/3/2014 7:58:37 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Nathan Yoke</p> <p>City Richmond County WAYNE State Indiana</p> <p>E-Mail Address Hyatldog12@yahoo.com</p> <p>Comments I'm for the high the powered riffle rule change As most deer are taken within 60 or less yards and in very dense Wooded areas</p>

Also I would like to have free or reduced fishing and hunting lic for disabled
Persons Indiana as like many other states offer to low income families
Comment Received 12/3/2014 7:59:24 PM

Commenter Name Jeff D Gill
City Newburgh County WARRICK State Indiana
E-Mail Address jagil5500@att.net
Comments DO NOT ALLOW RIFLES to deer hunt in Indiana. SAFETY CONCERNS
Comment Received 12/3/2014 7:59:48 PM

Commenter Name Ralph young
City Pekin County WASHINGTON State IN
E-Mail Address reyoung1959@gmail.com
Comments i agree 100% with the rule change in allowing the use of riffles .243 or larger
Comment Received 12/3/2014 8:01:37 PM

Commenter Name Christopher Scott
City Floyds Knobs County FLOYD State IN
E-Mail Address chrisscott1011@gmail.com
Comments My comment is in response to the motion to allow high powered rifles for deer hunting. At least as the southern portion of the state is concerned I can see no reason not to allow this and in doing so we will probably increase the success rate for deer hunters providing an effective tool for herd management. Thank you.
Comment Received 12/3/2014 8:01:45 PM

Commenter Name Eric Johnson
City Lowell County LAKE State Indiana
E-Mail Address E.JOHNSON153@YAHOO.COM
Comments I am totally against allowing no limits on high power rifles state wide! I can see maybe adding 30-30's state wide to the current rules. At the very minimum the northern half of our state where it is mostly flat should not allow higher powered rifles! The risks outweigh the benefits when most hunters shots are less than 100 yds! We already have enough people with shotguns who shouldn't be in the woods the last thing we need to do is upgrade them to a 30-06!
Comment Received 12/3/2014 8:01:45 PM

Commenter Name William Gillespie Jr.
City Howe County LAGRANGE State Indiana
E-Mail Address malletman1975@yahoo.com
Comments I see no reason why the proposed changes should not be made. I would ask that a serious consideration be put forth as to appropriate rifle cartridges. I dont know if it currently is or not, but, i believe the 50 bmg catridge should not be allowed for use in hunting. There is no applicable animal for which the use of this cartridge. I believe nothing larger in power and range of 300 winchester magnum would be feasible due to terrain limitations of indiana. Cartridges such as the 50bmg and 338 lapua and a few others, pose to much risk of over penetration and damage due to the extended range capabilities of these cartridges. Inventive people in indiana have already found eays around current limitations set forth, so, without directly posing specific cartridges illegal there will be no way to restrict or prevent someone from attempting to use above cartridges other than common sense. I have always been bound by and followed regulations without skirting them. But that has not prevented others. Direct exclusion of defined and named cartridges is necessary to prevent the inevitable damage that will occur.
Comment Received 12/3/2014 8:02:47 PM

Commenter Name Christopher Burney
City Angola County STEUBEN State indiana
E-Mail Address christopherbur@msn.com
Comments I do not support the addition of rifles to hunt deer in the state. There is too much chance for rounds to travel unsafe distances striking unintended targets. Assault style rifles are not a tye of weapon that needs to be used. Magazines with 15-30 capacity will only encourage irresponsible individuals to continue shooting past safe target areas. It will likewise encourage shots to be taken at ranges that do not guarantee enough kinetic energy to humanely bring down deer size animals.
Comment Received 12/3/2014 8:04:16 PM

Commenter Name Richard Stoll
City Versailles County RIPLEY State Indiana
E-Mail Address stoll25390@yahoo.com
Comments I strongly support Amends 312 IAC 9-3-3 governing equipment authorized for deer hunting. Please consider changing the bullet diameter to .243 of an inch or larger and removing the maximum case length.

Thank You

Richard Stoll
Comment Received 12/3/2014 8:05:43 PM

Commenter Name Martin Stearns
City Monon **County** WHITE **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address mastearns@comcast.net
Comments I am against the proposed rule change allowing high powered rifles. From my experience in the field there are way too many people who don't know what they are doing out during the firearms season. This year I had someone walking through the field 200 yards from me and in the past I had someone get dropped of along the aide of the road and try to shoot a doe that was in between us. I believe that it is just too crowded and the terrain too flat to allow these.
Comment Received 12/3/2014 8:06:21 PM

Commenter Name Pat heeke
City Troy **County** SPENCER **State** Ind
E-Mail Address Patandjane@coopsone.com
Comments High power rifle use during deer gun season is a good idea
Comment Received 12/3/2014 8:06:40 PM

Commenter Name Brian Brown
City Kendallville **County** NOBLE **State** IN
E-Mail Address bbrown@metalex.net
Comments I do not believe it is wise to open up the firearms and special antlerless seasons in the State of Indiana to high-powered rifles. Virtually everywhere I hunt here in northeast Indiana is populated too densely to allow all of the deer hunters to carry weapons that can push a lethal projectile over a mile downrange. It is not uncommon for me to count over 200 shots on opening morning of firearms season while sitting in my tree stand. Additionally, it is not uncommon for me to see hunters pushing deer and attempting shots at running deer across the field from them—which would likely results in serious injury for anyone downrange of them if they were carrying a high-powered rifle. Please consider the safety of the general public and other hunters and do not approve this rule change. I understand that the existing rules have loop holes that allow some hunters to use weapons with longer range than the typical slug gun—but those loop holes require the hunters to carefully consider their weapon and generally to invest more money in it and the ammunition needed to hunt with it. An "off the shelf" 300 Win Mag does not require that consideration or investment and will likely result in a bunch of unqualified hunters firing projectiles in unsafe directions. Thank you for your consideration.
Comment Received 12/3/2014 8:07:13 PM

Commenter Name Kevin F Smith
City Churubusco **County** WHITLEY **State** IN
E-Mail Address kevin.fitzmaurice@gmail.com
Comments I believe it would be a serious error to permit the use of virtually any centerfire rifle for deer hunting. Firstly, our firearms season is sufficiently long and well-hunted as it is to put a significant dent in the deer population. Further strain on the species will not serve hunters well in the long-term, providing fewer opportunities to harvest deer. Secondly, from a safety and ethics standpoint, allowing rifles is poor judgment. The surrounding states that permit rifle use have hills, a land feature nearly absent from the northern half of our state. Hunters and non-hunters alike will suffer casualties from rifle use, giving our sport a black eye. One only has to hunt Indiana's current firearms season to hear 5 or 6 blasts from a single shotgun in the span of a few seconds to have cause to doubt fellow hunters' aim. Imagine the same scenario from a .30-06, a .308, a .243... Do YOU want to hunt the neighboring farm to that guy? More wounded deer will be un-recovered, left to rot thanks to Johnny Trailer Park and his 400 yd shots with his .30-06. 200 yard effective range is an affordable reality for hunters thanks to modern sabots and inline muzzleloaders or even well-made shotguns. Please, for the future of big game hunting in our state, do NOT allow the use of rifles for the duration of the firearms season!
Comment Received 12/3/2014 8:07:29 PM

Commenter Name patrick carter
City churubusco **County** NOBLE **State** indiana
E-Mail Address patrickecarter@peoplepc.com
Comments I hate to see the limit put on blue gill , my wife , son and I fish on lake Wawasee regularly and we currently go through at least 100 redworms to catch nice mess of blue gills, due to all the little ones , I am not sure why but for the last 10 years it seems like there is way more little fish and they seem to be very aggressive and swallow the hook most of the time, so we have to kill them to get our hooks out, then I end up taking them home and cleaning them , this law change will cause me to through back wounded little ones that will then die, where as now I take them home and clean them , we think more people should start keeping more small gills so there is a better ratio of small to large bluegills, I guess I don't understand what this will do for the bluegill population in our lakes.
Comment Received 12/3/2014 8:09:26 PM

Commenter Name PAMELA THOMAS
City DERBY **County** PERRY **State** INDIANA
Organization (optional) Mrs.
E-Mail Address pamthomas12@twc.com
Comments I've watched a lot of people hauling in crappie under 9". Has there been any consideration of a size limit for the Indiana creeks off the Ohio River?

Is there anything being done to eliminate the invasive and dangerous Asian carp in the Indiana creeks? I've been hit twice in

Oil Creek in 2009 and have been afraid to fish there ever since. My whole life has been geared toward fishing in Deer Creek when I retired. We are now contemplating moving out of Perry County to Crawford County to fish at Patoka Lake.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 8:10:10 PM

Commenter Name Kevin Merritt

City Terre Haute **County** VIGO **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address Kmerritt1974@gmail.com

Comments I strongly disagree with the use of high powered rifles to be used in Indiana, I've been hunt for 30 years and you don't need the use a rifle to hunt in our state. I worry about the danger of hunters shooting across fields at long ranges and low light and shooting another hunter or livestock! We don't need high powered rifles in our woods!!

Comment Received 12/3/2014 8:11:05 PM

Commenter Name Jason Jacobs

City Covington **County** FOUNTAIN **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address cjacobs@tipmont.net

Comments If the proposed rule change on rifle calibers is approved, the minimum requirements for hunter orange should be increased.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 8:11:55 PM

Commenter Name dan sinks

City petersburg **County** PIKE **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address dsinks1679@yahoo.com

Comments Please do not pass the use of big caliber rifles for deer season. The small caliber rifles we can use now is perfect, I am a fellow deer hunter and do not wish for this. Their is not enough blaze orange I could wear,just to many crazy people out their. Thank you for hearing my opinion

Comment Received 12/3/2014 8:12:26 PM

Commenter Name Michael Beebe

City Spencer **County** OWEN **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address beebem97@yahoo.com

Comments I personally would like to see the rule changed as many of the shotgun/slug combinations and inline muzzleloaders are capable of 250+yd shots but tend to loose effective control past that. Whereas long rifles allow for greater control at these longer ranges.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 8:13:05 PM

Commenter Name Jerry Beard

City Milton **County** WAYNE **State** IN

E-Mail Address jbeard4@frontier.com

Comments High power rifles should not be made legal for deer hunting. The range on these rifles would make it more dangerous. A missed shot would travel farther.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 8:13:38 PM

Commenter Name Rick Keirn

City Albion **County** NOBLE **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address ricksarchery@ligtel.com

Comments The proposal to allow high powered rifles to hunt deer with on private and public land is not a safe idea. There is to many houses and to many small tracts of property in N.E. Indiana to safely allow high power rifles. I'm not in favor of this ruling change to allow high power rifles to hunt deer with. I think you will have more houses shot and more chances of someone getting shot. Because the long range capability of these rifles. By implementing high powered rifles hunter safety classes would have to intensely show new hunters and old, the long range capability these rifles create and the danger at a longer distance. The laws in the books now are not broke why try to fix them. This is not a better solution to the rules and regulations we have now. This appears to satisfy certain individuals or organizations who think they have to hunt with high powered rifles. The weapons use today are doing just fine. There are to many hunters in this area that do not want high powered rifles, in fear of getting shot or their house getting bullet holes in them. I hope you sincerely research this thru, before excepting this change. I think there will be more problems than you can imagine. So, please vote NO, for the safety of man,women,children and property for the use of High Powered Rifles for deer hunting.

Rick Keirn

Albion, In.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 8:14:57 PM

Commenter Name Chris McCann

City New Alsace **County** DEARBORN **State** IN

E-Mail Address cmccann@etczone.com

Comments Dear Sirs, I think it is totally ridiculous to allow high powered rifles for deer hunting in Indiana. The rule makers obviously lost their minds with this one. However, with the way the deer are managed in this state at the present, nothing would surprise me. Please wake up and realize what a valuable resource we have and begin to take care of it better.

PS. if you need help, look at OHIO, IOWA, ILLINOIS to learn how. Thanks for your time. Mr. Chris McCann

Comment Received 12/3/2014 8:16:15 PM

Commenter Name Ronald Robinson

City Remington **County** JASPER **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address rrobinson5371@yahoo.com

Comments I am totally against the use of high powered rifles for deer hunting

I do not want a bag limit on panfish

Comment Received 12/3/2014 8:17:47 PM

Commenter Name John Kammeyer

City Silver Lake **County** KOSCIUSKO **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address johnkammeyer@frontier.com

Comments If I understand this correctly, you are discussing allowing deer hunters use high powered rifles during gun season. I already have problems with poachers shooting deer on my property with rifles all year long. Hard to catch them, but find the carcasses with bullet holes. If your officers cannot help me control this, how are you going to control it during gun season. I am a hunter myself, and see no need for high powered rifles in the areas around where I live. Our houses are surrounded by woods, and sometimes cannot be seen very easily from common hunting areas and the county roads. I think the problem of careless hunters discharging these weapons too close to houses would be disastrous. Come on out to my place and I will show you bullet holes in my barn that I did not put there. It will become a uncontrolled mess. Not everyone thinks before they fire a weapon unfortunately. I will not allow my dog, my grandchildren, my wife or any of my buildings to be vulnerable to someone who can shoot them from the distance a high powered rifle can go. Please do not allow this law change. Thank You.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 8:19:51 PM

Commenter Name BRIAN BISHOP

City CARMEL **County** HAMILTON **State** INDIANA

E-Mail Address bishop2822@yahoo.com

Comments I THINK THAT RIFLES SHOULD BE USED IN SOUTHERN COUNTIES ONLY. THE LAND IS TO FLAT IN CENTRAL AND NORHTERN INDIANA. RIFLE BULLETS TRAVEL A LONG WAY. A LEAST THERE IS HILLS IN THE SOUTHERN COUNTIES TO STOP BULLETS

Comment Received 12/3/2014 8:22:19 PM

Commenter Name Terry Alderfer

City PLYMOUTH **County** MARSHALL **State** INDIANA

E-Mail Address tjalderfer@embarqmail.com

Comments My comment deals specifically with the use of high power rifles. I am against the use of these rifle cartridges due to the close proximity of houses in any county that has houses that could be no more than a mile apart. I would also be concerned about hunters entering a hunting site with the carrying distance of a high power rifle. I just do not feel save about this proposal. I am concerned for my family who deer hunt.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 8:24:51 PM

Commenter Name david Kissel

City Williams **County** LAWRENCE **State** IN

E-Mail Address bdkiss@rtccom.net

Comments I support the use of high power rifles to shoot deer. The shell larger than .243 should be revised to allow caliber .223 also. This is popular rifle shell and will also make a clean kill from research I have seen.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 8:25:12 PM

Commenter Name Robert Roy

City Lanesville **County** HARRISON **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address yorbor@twc.com

Comments I believe that for deer hunting, using rifles of .243 or larger is a good thing. You will have less of a chance of wounding the deer instead of harvesting it. Also, I believe that this will help reduce the population of deer and may have a positive impact on collision with vehicles.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 8:25:37 PM

Commenter Name Andrew Howat

City Bedford **County** LAWRENCE **State** In

E-Mail Address A_howat@sbcglobal.net

Comments I support this rule for the southern party of the state at least.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 8:26:05 PM

Commenter Name Chris Clymer

City Washington **County** DAVIESS **State** IN

E-Mail Address f10clymer@yahoo.com

Comments I strongly disagree with the proposal to expand or change the use of high powered rifle cartridges in Indiana. I am 44 yrs of age and have hunted since I was 6, I hunt deer with archery, crossbow, shotgun, rifle, pistol and muzzleloader.

I feel that adding the range to the rifle cartridge is going to endanger the hunter and the general population of Indiana. The state is claiming that the muzzleloader is a 500 yard gun and that is not an accurate statement, yes there may be a few custom muzzleloaders out there that can shoot that range, but 95 % are 200 yard guns and you only have one shot, also the muzzle loader bullet is so heavy it drops of a cliff after that range and does not carry for some distance, also at that time there is not very many hunters or citizens in the field at that time due to the late season and cold weather. Also the ones that use the muzzleloader during the regular firearms season is very few. I also hunt with a high powered rifle in neighboring states for deer and out west for elk, our neighboring states that you mentioned are a completely different population density than most of Indiana, who ever for the state that is proposing this rule should know that or is oblivious to their surroundings. I live in a rural area in Daviess County and have already had a window shot out of my house and my truck has been hit by my neighbor shooting a shotgun, this same neighbor and 4 of his friend were also sighting in slug guns directly in line with the front of my porch, shooting them into a single straw bale, and when I confronted them they assured me the bale was stopping them until I showed them the bullet grooves through my front yard. You cant stop idiots but you can restrict their ability to kill an innocent person by regulating their capability. Where I hunt is on private land and usually 20 to 40 acre tracks and that is the norm for are county it is not uncommon to have 4-6 hunters within 200 yards of each other, you are just asking for someone to get killed. This will also lead to hunters not being able to resist to shoot across someone elses property at these ranges and im sure they will not be aware what or who is on this property. Thank you for your time, but im sure that this comment as I believe idnr will do what they want anyway. I believe the staff in charge of this type of decision and other rules on deer hunting specifically are ruining the quality of hunting in Indiana. I don't know if its politics or money but the hunters are the ones paying now your putting all citizens lives in jeopardy. I will also save this so when someone gets killed I can show them this comment and prove you don't listen

Comment Received 12/3/2014 8:26:18 PM

Commenter Name Dan Bladow

City Walkerton County ST.JOSEPH State IN

E-Mail Address bladow00@yahoo.com

Comments I deer hunt in Indiana with archery equipment, shotgun, and rifle with handgun cartridges. We have heard for years that high power rifles are not allowed because it would not be safe given the relatively high population density in the state. Now it is suddenly OK. Deer populations are already declining, which is in line with stated goals, so why do we need high power rifles. I understand some modern muzzleloaders can shoot as far as a rifle but they are one shot and reload. I hate to say it as a hunter but there are too many individuals who hunt that will send shot after shot at a deer that is out of range because they believe their rifle will shoot that far. I see no reason to legalize high power rifles and the safety of everyone is the only reason we need not to.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 8:33:55 PM

Commenter Name Carrie Bousman

City Anderson County MADISON State IN

E-Mail Address Carrieb77@att.net

Comments I support the changes to the chages to us the high powered rifles to deer hunt.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 8:35:24 PM

Commenter Name Ross Cloud

City Anderson County MADISON State Indiana

E-Mail Address rcloud10@gmail.com

Comments The changes to 312 IAC 9-3-3 will be helpful to responsible hunters that wish to harvest more deer cleanly. Modern rifles have been demonstrated to be no more hazardous in hunting applications because a hunter must always know the target and what is behind it. The irresponsible will not be stopped by laws banning anything.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 8:38:18 PM

Commenter Name Byron Keith Clark

City Patriot County SWITZERLAND State Indiana

E-Mail Address kcdc123@embarcmail.com

Comments I am a 52 year old Indiana resident who has hunted in several states since I was 6 years old. I am strongly opposed to allowing centerfire rifles for DEER hunting in Indiana. There's no need for it and it is not safe in our populated rural state!

Comment Received 12/3/2014 8:38:39 PM

Commenter Name Dean Puckett

City Bloomington County MONROE State IN

E-Mail Address drpuckett@yahoo.com

Comments I would like to see these rules implemented, especially the whitetail deer rifle rules. I have a question as to the wording of the license requirements. I am a lifetime license holder and the addition of the words before its repeal is a little frightening. I would like an explanation as to what this is referring too.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 8:41:37 PM

Commenter Name Aaron Spurlock

City Batesville County FRANKLIN State IN

E-Mail Address ak.spurlock@gmail.com

Comments I do not believe that adding high powered rifles to the list of acceptable equipment for hunting deer in the state

of Indiana is prudent. Our state is more densely populated than many states that do allow the use of these rifles. The potential exists in my opinion for many unnecessary accidental shootings of not only hunters but innocent bystanders. There are very few places in our state where a shotgun or a pistol caliber rifle would be insufficient to take down a deer.

I am a life long hunter and active in the shooting sports. I always err on the side of caution when shooting. I believe this rule change to be a step in the wrong direction for the safety of not only hunters but for the citizens of the state of Indiana.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 8:42:28 PM

Commenter Name jeff meyer

City sunman **County** DEARBORN **State** indiana

E-Mail Address jjmeyer0889@gmail.com

Comments I disagree with the proposal of legalizing high powered rifles for deer hunting in indiana. Shotguns and muzzle loaders are more than efficient for hunting and far less dangerous. If this is an attempt to manage the whitetail heard why can't indiana dnr look into allowing minerals, corn, ect... like many other states do, and that brings no added danger to the hunters that have 10 other hunters in a 100 acre property like myself.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 8:43:28 PM

Commenter Name kaleb bousman

City anderson **County** MADISON **State** indiana

E-Mail Address kaleb.bousman@gmail.com

Comments I am in favor of the usage of high powered rifles in Indiana. As an avid hunter I would love to have another option to hunt. The changes made over the last several years have made it easier for the young and handicapped to be able to hunt.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 8:43:37 PM

Commenter Name Bryan Smith

City Morgantown **County** MORGAN **State** Indiana

Organization (optional) Indiana Sportsman

E-Mail Address fullstrut67@yahoo.com

Comments I support the new rule change to use center fire rifles to hunt deer in Indiana. Thank You.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 8:45:19 PM

Commenter Name Chad j strange

City Bloomfield **County** GREENE **State** In

E-Mail Address Bluetick_hunter@yahoo.com

Comments Please DO NOT allow high powered rifles into the firearms season. There is not enough safe shooting distance in this area when compared to the amount of hunters afield. Also I am a trapper and do not feel comfortable being in an area where rifles are being used. There is a reason we have gone this long without them. Thank you for your time.

Chad J. Strange

Comment Received 12/3/2014 8:45:28 PM

Commenter Name Jeff Bihn

City Ridgeville **County** RANDOLPH **State** In

E-Mail Address Jeffbihn@gmail.com

Comments I am against changing the rifle rule. I don't believe Indiana needs more centerfire rifles in deer season. Safety is my main concern. Thanks

Comment Received 12/3/2014 8:45:36 PM

Commenter Name Barry Regan

City Indianapolis **County** MARION **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address Reganbarlin8@aol.com

Comments The hunting environment in Indiana is predominantly wooded areas interlaced with opened fields or crop land. It is the exception rather than the rule that a hunter would take what would be determined as a kill shot of more than 50 yards. Shot guns, muzzle loaders and modern bow & arrow are all capable of producing a fatal shot from these weapons at this distance. Safety has to be a part of this decision. A high percentage of these shots using the ordinances mentioned are made from a tree stand and in a downward direction which adds to the safety of these weapons. It would be a rare opportunity in Indiana that a hunter would be using a high powered rifle with an open-field shot of 200 yards or more to kill a deer. For the reasons of safety and the high probability of being successful if you used a muzzle loader, a shotgun or a bow & arrow I feel that the high-powered rifle would not produce a higher success rate and would could result in a higher probability of someone being injured.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 8:47:07 PM

Commenter Name Thomas W Holmes

City Huntington **County** HUNTINGTON **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address twholmes@live.com

Comments Bag limit on panfish should be 25. Fisherman do not need 70 bluegill at one time. High powered rifles are not needed to hunt deer. The public would be put in danger. I live 1/4 mile from Roush Lake, well in range of a

<p>rifle.</p> <p>Comment Received 12/3/2014 8:47:19 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Jeff Modesitt City Brazil County CLAY State Indiana E-Mail Address jamodesitt@netscape.net Comments I support the rule package that will allow rifle hunting for deer. There are already very powerful long range weapons being used in Indiana in handguns. And modern muzzleloaders are nearly equal with many moderate centerfire rifles. Since these types of weapons have been allowed there has been no noticable increase in hunting accidents or property damage. Also the increase in accuracy will allow more accurate shot placement and a more humane harvest. Comment Received 12/3/2014 8:47:32 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Robert Banet City Lanesville County HARRISON State Indiana E-Mail Address bobbbanet@twc.com Comments We should definitely put limits on bluegill. We should also adopt a minimum 9 inch length on all Crappie. Comment Received 12/3/2014 8:47:38 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Michael Shoaff City Leo County ALLEN State Indiana E-Mail Address mike.shoaff@gmail.com Comments I am against the rule change to allow all high powered rifles. With the rules now if someone really wants one they can spend the time and money to get a wildcat cartridge rifle. If all high powered rifles are legal everybody will be buying one at Walmart. In many areas of Indiana this would not be good. Some landowners would not allow hunting on their property. Comment Received 12/3/2014 8:49:37 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Curtiz Young City Mooresville County MORGAN State Indiana E-Mail Address curtizy@gmail.com Comments Concerning allowing rifles of .243 or larger caliber for deer hunting: This change is long over due. Definitely in favor of the new proposed rule. Much more accurate and humane way of harvesting deer. Comment Received 12/3/2014 8:50:14 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name john ruiz jr City lafayette County TIPPECANOE State indiana E-Mail Address theindianaoutdoorsmen@gmail.com Comments I am completely opposed to the proposed rule change of allowing a firearm to harvest a deer, after the first Saturday past November 11th through January 31st, in "deer reduction zones." This will further decimate the already dwindling deer population in Tippecanoe county, which is currently an "urban zone area." This year, 2014, the dnr wisely lowered the legal bag limit in Tippecanoe county from 8 to 4. Obviously the deer numbers were and are waaaaay down in order to lower harvest numbers in half, excluding the extra bag limits for urban zone tags. Allowing a firearm allllll the way til January 31st would wipe out the herds to unthinkable and unmanageable numbers. There are far more gun hunters who shoot anything that moves. I dont want to put a gun in their hands any more additional days. I want to take away fire arm days and give the herd a chance to mature, give the bucks a chance to grow. Comment Received 12/3/2014 8:50:14 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Michael Felton City Muncie County DELAWARE State Indiana E-Mail Address Michaelfelton@netzero.com Comments The proposed changes to allow the use of high-powered rifles for deer is absolute ridiculous. They may be reasonable in the most rugged counties, but totally irresponsible to implement state-wide. I would be willing to support this horse shit if the number of CO's were quadrupled in order to reign in the idiots that are already making the woods unsafe with lesser weapons...and nothing is done about. You have lost my support and liscence revenue if this passes. Comment Received 12/3/2014 8:51:33 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name larry s hardin City jeffersonville County CLARK State indiana E-Mail Address larryhardinsr@yahoo.com Comments I think it is a change that will benefit the deer hunting and control of the population of the deer herds Comment Received 12/3/2014 8:52:20 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name John Burgess City Richmond County WAYNE State IN E-Mail Address jburgesspurdue@gmail.com Comments The rule changes to allow rifle hunting are good, but the way the rule is written there is no limit on maximum caliber or case capacity. 50 bmg, 338 lapua and other long range cartridges would be allowed. There is potential for danger due to ricochets that is increased with higher powered cartridges. The other issue not addressed is that many lead free</p>

bullets are made to retain bullet mass after impact. Allowing lead-free bullets will increase the distance a ricochet will travel versus a lead core hunting bullet. There is a study floating around that looked at the Shotgun slug vs rifle danger zones at Picatinny Arsenal. This study makes assumptions that are not addressed in your revision of the law. The study assumes the use of a soft tip lead core bullet, that will lose a lot of mass when striking the ground due to deformation of the projectile. Bullets such as Barnes TTSX, Barnes TSX, Hornady GMX, Nosler E-Tip and some other all copper bullets have very high retained masses after striking animals. This should be considered in this law. I would recommend limiting maximum cartridge overall length to 3.34" or less. This will make ultra high power cartridges illegal. Also I would only allow lead core bullets. This will increase mass reduction when the bullet strikes the ground and decrease the distance at which a ricochet travels. I grew up in Wayne County, IN, educated at Purdue University and enjoy hunting in IN each fall. I am currently a mechanical engineer at Picatinny Arsenal, want to keep IN hunting as safe as possible. These recommendations are only my personal opinion and in no way associated with my position with the Army.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 8:55:32 PM

Commenter Name Larry Briles

City Morgantown **County** BROWN **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address kolob20@gmail.com

Comments I agree with the proposed rule change amending the deer hunting rifle cartridge requirement to .243 diameter or larger and removing the maximum cartridge length requirement. Makes sense since the regs already allow those cartridges in a handgun.

Allowing the proposed rule change would enhance accuracy by using a rifle and thus enhance humane kills. Thank you.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 8:59:26 PM

Commenter Name Tim Cook

City Warsaw **County** KOSCIUSKO **State** IN

E-Mail Address tcook4137@embarqmail.com

Comments Strongly disagree with proposal to allow rifles over .243. I feel the previous limit was a good idea but opening this up further will enable many more hunters including those with less experience and more dangerous to use a weapon that potentially can go very long distance and penetrate structures at high velocity. Before the high price of many wildcat .358s made them useful to skilled rifle hunters. Now I think you will see an uptick in injuries hopeful not fatal but you are treading into danger and no ones child will get hit buy a .270 round traveling thru. their house or car.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 8:59:56 PM

Commenter Name John Fithian

City Hazleton **County** GIBSON **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address deadlevel@hotsheet.com

Comments we do not !!!! need high power rifles for deer hunting what you can use now is good enough.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 9:00:09 PM

Commenter Name Andrew Abbring

City Fort Wayne **County** ALLEN **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address Drewabbring@yahoo.com

Comments I ask that you do not include high power rifles for deer hunting. I believe the issue is one primarily of safety. There are plenty of rabid deer hunters who will be armed to the teeth with weapons capable of real damage over long distances. I am also old enough to remember when it was a thrill just to see one deer in an entire season. Now the haunting is much better while still not a nuisance. Please do not allow this change. I for one will be staying with the old fashioned guns regardless. -Drew Abbring

Comment Received 12/3/2014 9:02:30 PM

Commenter Name Daniel Hensley

City Anderson **County** MADISON **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address djhensley87@gmail.com

Comments The rule changes concerning high-powered rifles should have happened a long time ago. Personally I believe a high-powered rifle to be a more effective/ethical way to harvest a whitetail deer. The better accuracy from these firearms will prevent a lot of the bad shots and poor slow kills.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 9:03:25 PM

Commenter Name David Overton

City Boonville **County** WARRICK **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address ddcover@toast.net

Comments I am in favor of the proposed rule change regarding rifles that may be used for deer hunting.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 9:03:30 PM

Commenter Name Michael Green

City Pendleton **County** MADISON **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address Camo.Mike27@gmail.com

Comments I am a 17 year old high school student who is an avid hunter. Hunting allows me to relieve stress put on by school. The proposed changes would be a positive for Indiana. The gun calibers mentioned in the appeal are capable of killing deer humanely and quickly. The new calibers are also very precise, allowing for the hunter to feel more confident in

his shot.

I currently hunt with a lever action .44 magnum rifle. The .44 magnum ammunition is hard to find and very expensive. When .44 magnum ammunition is found I am forced with the decision either to use that ammunition or continue in the long search for more. The calibers that would be allowed with the appeals approval are much more common rounds. Ammunition such as; .243 win, .270 win, .308 win, and .30-06 Spring, are rounds that are commonly found in gun shops and sporting goods stores.

If you are to look up rifles recommended for hunting Whitetail Deer, many different rifles from reputable companies come up (<http://www.americanhunter.org/articles/best-deer-rifles-today>). The issue is that the only rifles that are in the list and are legal to use in Indiana are the muzzle loaders.

Legalizing the use of these rifle calibers will increase the number of deer hunters buying licenses and tags to hunt Whitetail deer in Indiana. The sales would increase because of hunters who are residents of Indiana and hunt out of state due to the current legislation, would now hunt in Indiana rather than hunting out of state. It would also allow for out of state hunters to buy the more expensive out of state license and deer tag, and continue using the rifle that their own state allows.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 9:03:57 PM

Commenter Name Jason Sprung

City Atlanta **County** HAMILTON **State** IN

E-Mail Address jmsprung@gmail.com

Comments The rules concerning the use of high powered rifles to hunt deer during the firearm season is a long time coming in my opinion. I am all for this proposal. However the DNR should still consider limiting cartridge lengths; basically if you give someone an inch they'll take a mile (think about all the deer legal wildcats that developed with the use of "pistol" rifle cartridges). People in the "orange army" already take longer range shots than they should be taking with shotguns. I can't imagine what a knuckle-head might do with a 338 Lapua. I recommend that the DNR, in addition to a minimum cartridge length, stipulate a maximum as well. This way the DNR could limit the use of cartridges that have effective ranges far exceeding 500 yards (7mm mag, 300 mag, NO 50 BMG!). I believe anything that is a short-action length cartridge case (2.045") would be effective enough on deer under 1,000 yds.

In addition because of housing density special consideration should be given to rifle use in urban or suburban areas. Michigan has a shotgun/pistol caliber only zone in its more populated southern counties while high power rifles are legal in the upper peninsula and northern lower peninsula. The same rules could be applied to Indiana's counties. I trust deer hunters to mostly do the right thing and use common sense, but safety on public land should be a top priority especially in heavily pressured FWAs or State/USFS land. Maybe more blaze orange requirements on public land hunts. Thank you for your consideration.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 9:04:11 PM

Commenter Name Charles Plumer

City Westfield **County** HAMILTON **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address Chuck.plumer@gmail.com

Comments I am all for the proposed change to allow high powered rifles. Having lived in another state that allows rifles, I see no difference between rifles and muzzle loaders now a days.

Thank you for all you do.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 9:04:44 PM

Commenter Name warren bricker

City west lafayette **County** TIPPECANOE **State** in

E-Mail Address bricker.warren@att.net

Comments I favor the rule changes I belive the deer hunting changes are long overdue.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 9:05:12 PM

Commenter Name Steven R. Schenck

City Thorntown **County** BOONE **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address sschenck@frontiernet.net

Comments I would like to see a maximum case length maintained for rifles. A maximum case length of 2.1 inches would allow such favorite deer cartridges as the 30-30 Winchester, .243 Winchester, and the .308 Winchester, while not allowing such long action cartridges as the .270 Winchester, 30-06 Springfield, and other long action belted magnum cartridges.

Thank you, Steve Schenck

Comment Received 12/3/2014 9:05:18 PM

Commenter Name Bob Flower

City Cleves **County** HAMILTON **State** Ohio

E-Mail Address bflower@zoomtown.com

Comments I have been deer hunting in Indiana for the last 6 -7 years with both a cross bow and shotgun. I am against high-powered rifles during deer season because the bullets travel much further than a shot-gun slug and present a real danger to hunters and non-hunting residents alike.

I have friends who hunt in Kentucky who have found rifle bullets lodged in their passenger compartment of their vehicle

during hunting season. They comment all the time how dangerous this situation is and firing a rifle at long range leads to many button or spike buck kills or maiming because of the increased distance and poor sighting of the deer.

Please vote no and do not allow this proposal for high-powered rifles to pass.

Thanks you for your consideration.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 9:07:20 PM

Commenter Name Brett Marshall

City Dale County **WARRICK State** Indiana

E-Mail Address marshallbrett@rocketmail.com

Comments I don't believe we need a rifle season. I live in north east Warrick county I don't think we have enough wilderness to safely use high powered rifles. I know they say our deer numbers are up but if you ask around where I live we are not seeing the deer we were several years ago. I believe it will make it worse. I hunt a lot and not just deer I don't see as many deer as I feel like I should. I also think there will be more people poaching deer from there truck we already have enough of that. Thanks for letting the people that hunt send in there comments. I wish the people of Indiana that buy a hunting license could vote on the proposed laws.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 9:09:02 PM

Commenter Name Andy Oswalt

City Wabash County **WABASH State** IN

E-Mail Address andyoz119@hotmail.com

Comments Asking for you to not pass the amendment for any further rifles to be used during the deer season. In my perspective here are a few reasons;

Increases the potential risk for person and or property to be unintentionally hit by either a miss or ricochet.

Plenty of options for 100+ yard firearms that are affordable, increasing the distance with the proposed rifles will wound, not kill more deer, which will benefit predators only.

I appreciate your time and dedication.

Thank you,

Andy Oswalt

Comment Received 12/3/2014 9:10:44 PM

Commenter Name Matt Hedden

City Elizabeth County **HARRISON State** IN

E-Mail Address mad522@msn.com

Comments Instead of allowing any high power rifle round larger than .243, I would like the rule changed to any straight walled cartridge of at least .357 without any case length restriction. I dont like the thought of my kids and myself in the woods with high powered rifle rounds going off all around us. There is no place where we hunt in southern Indiana that an ethical hunter could take a shot with a high powered rifle that they could be completely sure of what is beyond their target. I also feel like the number of wounded and never recovered animals would drastically increase because of longer shots being taken.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 9:10:49 PM

Commenter Name david okeley

City wanatah County **LAPORTE State** Indiana

E-Mail Address cycledave@frontier.com

Comments being a lifetime resident license holder and avid hunter, I have always hunted on public land. this is the backbone of support to the dnr. private landowners do not contribute to the financial support we the license holders do. I believe the proposal for legalizing high powered rifles for deer hunting would benefit private property hunting the most and would definitely not work on public hunt properties which are overcrowded. please vote no to this proposal.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 9:10:51 PM

Commenter Name Ed Bollman

City Anderson County **MADISON State** Indiana

E-Mail Address icobollman@yahoo.com

Comments Under current state law, a hunter can hunt everything in Indiana with a high-powered rifle except for a deer, turkey, or migratory birds so it only makes sense to allow high power rifles for the taking of deer. I feel it is much safer to shoot at a downward angle from an elevated position at a deer with a high powered rifle then shooting at a coyote at a level angle from the ground. The use of high powered rifles would as increase the hunter success rate which would better enable IDNR to control the deer population in which some groups still feel is to high.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 9:11:47 PM

Commenter Name Tim Troyer

City Angola County **STEBEN State** Indiana

E-Mail Address ttroyer@timtroyer.us

Comments Reagrdring rifle calibers .243 and up, I am in favor of such a rule. I find it easier to enforce and far more practice for the hunter and humane for the animal in which we pursue. Many falacies are flying around about centerfire rifles. Those that truly understand how they work also understand that in reality they are far less likely to ricochet, are more accurate and will create more humane kills on the animals. The use of a centerfire rifle will not alter the ethics of the hunter. Either your ethics are good or they are bad and that is true regardless of the weapon you choose to use. Many discussions I hear surround the use of elephant calibers and such. The reality is most hunters cant afford to buy or use such firearms for whitetails as the cost of the rifle is high, so is its ammunition and its recoil is heavy. Hunters wishing to use rifles will do so to increase their accuracy, effectiveness and reduce recoil. Especially true for young and the older hunters we have affield. Many of the fears being put out there are the same ones we all heard when handguns were proposed as well as crossbows. The vast majority of those hunters in Indiana are ethical and responsible and the use of rifles will not alter that. Its a good move for Indiana to adopt rifles, many hunters are already using wildcat cartridges and tweaking handgun calibers. Most all modern muzzleloaders already in use are producing centerfire rifle ballistics. Your enforcement division will also have an easier time of it when checking hunters affield and know what is lawful rather than a quess based on a caliper reading over a case length or bore diameter. Thank you.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 9:19:31 PM

Commenter Name andrew arthur

City freedom **County** OWEN **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address andrewarthur44@yahoo.com

Comments dear sirs I think it is a great ideal to hunt deer with a highpowered rifle up to 30/06 case length or at least 30/30 and 35 Remington calibers

Comment Received 12/3/2014 9:20:24 PM

Commenter Name Cameron Valentine

City PENDLETON **County** MADISON **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address cameron.valentine98@gmail.com

Comments I, Cameron Valentine, would like this rule proposal to be allowed under Indiana Law.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 9:22:21 PM

Commenter Name Mat Valentine

City PENDLETON **County** MADISON **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address valentineproperties@frontier.com

Comments I, Mat Valentine, would like to have these proposals allowed under Indiana law.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 9:23:43 PM

Commenter Name Claudia Valentine

City PENDLETON **County** MADISON **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address valentineproperties@frontier.com

Comments I, Claudia Valentine, would like to have these proposals allowed under Indiana law.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 9:24:16 PM

Commenter Name Darrin Lowe

City Indianapolis **County** MARION **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address darrin.w.lowe@gmail.com

Comments I believe the implementation of the .243 minimum projectile size of high powered rifle rounds is a great idea. This will eliminate many uneducated hunters who own "black" guns from being in the woods during hunting season. This will also eliminate many concerns of myself and other hunters I have spoken with about those gun owners from just emptying a 30 round magazine at a deer versus being an ethical hunter and caring about shot placement. I feel as if this is a progressive move on the state's part, as I have hunted with high powered rifles in other states without incident or concern on my part.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 9:24:34 PM

Commenter Name Bruce Drake

City brownsburg **County** HENDRICKS **State** indiana

E-Mail Address BMDRAKE71@GMAIL.COM

Comments Thank you for reviewing the firearm regulations for deer hunting and presenting a logical change to the rifle calibers. I look forward to safely using my father's M1 Garand to harvest a deer when then changes go into effect.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 9:25:47 PM

Commenter Name Commodore Secrest

City Dugger **County** SULLIVAN **State** IN

E-Mail Address commodoresecrest@yahoo.com

Comments I like the idea of being able to use a modern rifle for deer, and please increase the deer harvest because I see so many deer vehicle accidents in Sullivan Co. it scares me to ride a motorcycle at dusk..

Comment Received 12/3/2014 9:27:45 PM

Commenter Name Gregory A Bailey

City Fountain City **County** WAYNE **State** IN

E-Mail Address gabrigger@frontier.com

Comments I am in favor of approving the proposed changes to firearms requirements for deer hunting. Centerfire rifles can be used to take other game and are completely safe when used properly. There is simply no valid reason that centerfire rifles should be prohibited for deer hunting.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 9:29:38 PM

Commenter Name Mike Duncan

City Convers **County** MIAMI **State** IN

E-Mail Address mjdjunk@yahoo.com

Comments Shooting hi-caliber rifles on open flat ground similar to the rural farm fields of Indiana would create a very dangerous situation. A miss could carry for a mile or so and this could result in unintended consequences for anything (or anyone) beyond what is being shot at.

Further, the public hunting areas such as Mississinewa are very heavily populated with hunters during Deer season... long range rifles could lead to hunters rather than the hunted being shot.

This is a very dangerous, and irresponsible proposal. I can not understand how any logical or sane person could consider this a good idea. Unless the intent is to actually facilitate accidental deaths, and thus, support those who are advocates to remove gun rights in the United States.

Is that the true intent?

Either way, I for one certainly think this is a ridiculous, and very dangerous proposal.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 9:32:47 PM

Commenter Name Kip Thorne

City South Whitley **County** WHITLEY **State** IN

E-Mail Address csxthogger@yahoo.com

Comments I do not believe the use of high power in our state is a good idea. In agriculture areas the terrain is too flat and bullet distances are too great. In my opinion the state is asking for trouble with stray bullets hitting houses, outbuildings and even vehicles and unsuspecting pedestrians. NOT A GOOD IDEA AT ALL

Comment Received 12/3/2014 9:32:52 PM

Commenter Name Doug Caylor

City Tipton **County** TIPTON **State** IN

E-Mail Address mdcaylor@tds.net

Comments We can kill plenty of deer in Indiana with shotguns without the added safety concerns of commercial center fire rifles as the amendment will allow. We should not give the anti-hunting crowd an accidental shooting to propel their agenda further. At least consider the middle third as "shotgun only" because of it's flatness and openness. Thank you.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 9:33:08 PM

Commenter Name Robert Springman Jr.

City Valparaiso **County** PORTER **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address kbspringman@frontier.com

Comments If you go to a 25 panfish limit, composed of bluegill and red ear, it will result in many lakes having a stunted population. This will be due to the fact that most fisherman will only keep the biggest fish, thus taking the breeders out of the lake. This leaves only the genetically smaller fish to reproduce. There should be a limit on how many panfish can be kept over 8 inches and then you can keep as many as you would like under 8 inches. This leaves many of the larger panfish in the lake to breed and keep a healthy population. I have seen examples of this in many lakes that I frequently fish in southern Michigan. One example I could provide in Indiana is what happened in Webster Lake. Webster lake is loaded with 6-7 inch bluegill on average. You very seldom catch a bluegill over that size and if you go down to only taking 25 panfish, it will result in the bluegill population becoming even more stunted and smaller than it already is. This is because not enough of the smaller fish, which are the ones you don't necessarily want as your breeders, will stay in the lake.

As for the walleye size limit, it would be easier to accept a 15 inch size limit. Walleye is already composed of a put and take population. If the size limit is increased, nobody would want to harvest much larger walleye, because the quality of the meat decreases. A 15 inch size limit, such as the one in Michigan, is much easier to accept because the quality of the meat in these sized fish is much better for eating. It would not be a bad idea to adopt the 15 inch size limit and allow fisherman to only keep 5 walleye. This would keep the population plentiful, which would require less stocking and a save on funds that could be put in other places.

I do support the idea of increasing the size limit on musky from 36 inches to 40 inches because musky is considered a trophy fish and is not meant for the dinner table, where the opposite is true for bluegill and walleye.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 9:33:47 PM

Commenter Name Tom rogers

City sellersburg **County** CLARK **State** indiana

<p>E-Mail Address thebestpaintjobs@gmail.com</p> <p>Comments I have a 300 black out rifle .shoots a 30 caliber bullet drops off dramatic ly after 100 yards perfect gun for deer and other calibers would bring some new life in Indiana deer hunting</p> <p>Comment Received 12/3/2014 9:36:57 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Jacob Pickett</p> <p>City Monroe County KNOX State IN</p> <p>E-Mail Address jacobpickett714@yahoo.com</p> <p>Comments I would like to see a decrease in the shotgun season for deer. I would also like to see a lower bag limit on deer being one doe and one buck per licensed hunter. I see no reason to have river otter trapping season as they are not in a large abundance and are not a nuisance.</p> <p>Comment Received 12/3/2014 9:40:15 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Jeremy mote</p> <p>City Cutler County CARROLL State Indiana</p> <p>E-Mail Address Yoyomote@yahoo.com</p> <p>Comments The aspect of broadening the range of game I may take with my precision rifles is thrilling! However I would like to see those high powers limited to elevated platforms only for at least the first few years.</p> <p>Comment Received 12/3/2014 9:40:31 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Aaron Randall</p> <p>City Noblesville County HAMILTON State Indiana</p> <p>E-Mail Address randall25@sbcglobal.net</p> <p>Comments I fully support the rules modification governing rifle cartridges that may be lawfully used to take deer during the firearms season.</p> <p>Comment Received 12/3/2014 9:41:14 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Eric Babcock</p> <p>City Pleasant Lake County STEUBEN State IN</p> <p>E-Mail Address blues_bro77@yahoo.com</p> <p>Comments Hi I am a deer hunter and I think allowing high powered rifles for deer season would be a dangerous mistake! The stray bullets from these types of guns will have a much further kill area then just for the deer, endangering other hunters that could be in the path, that the shooter cannot see... thank-you Eric</p> <p>Comment Received 12/3/2014 9:42:02 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Gregory L. Corpe</p> <p>City South Bend County ST.JOSEPH State Indiana</p> <p>E-Mail Address sbgreg@comcast.net</p> <p>Comments yes expand the rifles to include .243 caliber and larger</p> <p>Comment Received 12/3/2014 9:44:51 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name R. Scott Ronczka</p> <p>City Greenwood County JOHNSON State IN</p> <p>E-Mail Address sbronzka@sbcglobal.net</p> <p>Comments I agree with the proposed changes to center fire rifle calibers and removal of the maximum cartridge length. I see no difference in performance or safety as compared to today's inline muzzleloaders or shotguns with sabots. I do not think there will be any higher accident rates than with current firearms or significant changes in deer harvest numbers. This give hunters more choice and options, which is a good thing.</p> <p>Comment Received 12/3/2014 9:45:09 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name michael eicher</p> <p>City monroe County ADAMS State in</p> <p>E-Mail Address eicherm85@gmail.com</p> <p>Comments I am opposed to allowing high powered rifles in Indiana. This is a mainly flat state especially in Adams county. I sometimes like to take my kid out in a ground blind and if somebody is firing a bullet that can travel a mile or better, I would not feel safe to take my kid hunting. I could under stand in some of the southern county's but not the majority. This could be a dangerous situation and I would hate to have the blood of a child or someone's father on my hands if I changed this rule. If it isn't broke don't fix it!</p> <p>Comment Received 12/3/2014 9:45:47 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Thomas Snyder</p> <p>City Shelburn County SULLIVAN State Indiana</p> <p>E-Mail Address tsnyder5133@yahoo.com</p> <p>Comments I agree on this proposed rule change fully, I think it's a great idea to allow rifle cartridges.</p> <p>Comment Received 12/3/2014 9:46:07 PM</p>

<p>Commenter Name Gil Jochem City Evansville County VANDERBURGH State Indiana E-Mail Address gjoch3282@twc.com Comments I do not agree making the deer reduction season legal for guns for 2 1/2 months. I live in the county and have hunting around my ground and that is fine for a couple of weeks but I would not like high powered rifles going off early in the mornings for that long of a period. Thank You, Gil Jochem Comment Received 12/3/2014 9:46:55 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Mike Kellems City Birdseye County DUBOIS State IN Organization (optional) Mr. E-Mail Address m_kellems@yahoo.com Comments Would like you to pass the rule to allow deer hunting with high powered rifles, The smallest Cal. that KY will allow to take deer is 243 Cal. That way I can use my rifle in my home state as well. Neighboring states need to work together on these issues. I have talked to Ky. DNR officers and they are willing to work with Indiana DNR on issues. Need to bring our state up to speed with the others around us. Thanks Comment Received 12/3/2014 9:47:05 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Justin smith City Lanesville County HARRISON State Indiana E-Mail Address Biggen0074@gmail.com Comments All in favor for the high powered rifle rule change Comment Received 12/3/2014 9:48:47 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Montie Dunn City Seymour County JACKSON State IN E-Mail Address montie.dunn@yahoo.com Comments I agree with all of the proposed changes in this package especially the use of Rifles for deer season. This has been a long time coming the only concern is northern Indiana where the landscape is flat. Comment Received 12/3/2014 9:51:01 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Bruce Walker City Valparaiso County PORTER State Indiana E-Mail Address bwrookiehunter@gmail.com Comments New rule on firearms is needed. Rifle caliber of 30-06 should be legal in Indiana. This Rifle is legal for all types of animals except Deer. Indiana need to establish new rules for use of the 30-06 Rifled. Indiana and Illinois are the only 2 states that forbid its use.. High powered rifles are no more dangerous than the new rifles that shoot pistol round of .243. I recommend to the board to pass laws allowing the use of rifles using a .308 diameter Round ie 30-06 Thank you Bruce Walker Comment Received 12/3/2014 9:52:15 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Andrew Guenette City Lowell County LAKE State Indiana E-Mail Address andyanaoutdoors@gmail.com Comments Give a lot of thought to letting uneducated folks use high powered rifles in wide open areas. I actually quit hunting all together due to the carelessness of people randomly discharging firearms in all directions as soon as the sun rises. It is already dangerous and I think adding rifles in some areas will add to the level. Possible it would be a great thing in southern regions where it is highly wooded and hilly. I live in an open area outside of town and I think rifles here would make people over confident and they will be taking shots that are unethical. Give some thought to road hunters too. Harvesting an animal at distance is something that can only be done by a skilled marksman with the proper equipment not your average Hoosier with an old war relic. I am sure it will be fine as long as there are some limits on weapons used and county's and enforce them! Comment Received 12/3/2014 9:52:50 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Andrew McLaughlin City Pennville County JAY State Indiana E-Mail Address Amclaughlin762@gmail.com Comments Given the recent developments in "wildcat" rifle cartridges that are legal for deer hunting statewide, such as the 358 Hoosier and 358 WSSM. I full heartedly SUPPORT the statewide use of "High Powered" rifles for deer hunting. Comment Received 12/3/2014 9:58:18 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Devin Bush City Franklin County JOHNSON State IN</p>

E-Mail Address devin.bush@anthem.com

Comments I am in favor of amending deer hunting regulations to allow high-powered rifles. Other nearby states allow, and such rifles are also allowed for hunting coyote, etc., so the current restriction must not be related to terrain and field sizes.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 9:59:00 PM

Commenter Name Brenton Cripe

City Goshen **County** ELKHART **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address Brenton.cripe@valpo.edu

Comments As pertaining to the proposed centerfire cartridge rule change for rifles, I do not believe it is an appropriate change for Indiana. I have a few issues with hunters being able to use high powered rifles. One of these issues is safety. A large majority of deer taken in Indiana during the firearm season are around 100 yards, or less, away from the hunter. With modern sabot slugs, the accuracy and capability of a hunter using a shotgun has improved over the years. It is generally unnecessary to use anything more than a shotgun in this state. Also, with a relatively high population density, increasing the range of a hunter's ability to fire at a deer causes great concern. There seems to be more and more hunters each year. I hunt on 80 acres with my uncle and two brothers. Although I trust those I hunt with, I don't always feel the safest during firearm season due to the possibility of stray shots from other hunters in the area. I have seen some disturbing things at gun ranges and in the woods with regards to how people handle firearms. A majority of safety issues arise due to pure ignorance. The dedicated and experienced hunter is cognizant of his/her surroundings when deciding whether or not to take a shot. Unfortunately, this is not the case for everyone hunting. I am an engineer and make a living looking at potential issues. When weighing the perceived positives and negatives of including centerfire cartridges during firearm season, I believe the negatives (safety being at the top) would have a bigger impact on hunting than the positives would. I have not seen data that shows whether or not high powered rifles to increase potential safety issues. However, based upon basic reasoning, and until data is shown to disprove this logic, high powered rifles are inherently more dangerous to hunters in this state.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 10:00:09 PM

Commenter Name Kevin Stirratt

City Decatur **County** ADAMS **State** IN

E-Mail Address kstirratt67@gmail.com

Comments I strongly disagree with constantly adding "before its repeal" every time the Life time license is mentioned. The wording is unnecessary as there are no licenses issued after the repeal. And to add that phrase in gives an air that the state might be considering retroactively ending the lifetime license. While I don't believe this could be done without significant legal consequences, to even modify the language is asking for an emotional reaction from the hunting community. The added phrases do NOTHING to clarify an issue. The potential miscommunication is not worth modifying the language.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 10:01:43 PM

Commenter Name David A Batjes

City Leo **County** ALLEN **State** IN

E-Mail Address dabatjes@aol.com

Comments People are paying to hunt at put and take hunts. If another game animal is jumped or offers an opportunity, one should not be limited in the legal taking of that animal. All be it there is limited additional hunting pressure legal pursuit is just that and there is no need to add additional rules. People are there to hunt, let them hunt 312 IAC 9-4-8

Comment Received 12/3/2014 10:03:31 PM

Commenter Name Scott Higdon

City Otisco **County** CLARK **State** In

E-Mail Address scotth@hitekfirearms.com

Comments Vote no on high power rifle. The deer population in Clark state forestry is slim to none or put a size limit on bucks and drop the limit of doe harvest

Comment Received 12/3/2014 10:10:05 PM

Commenter Name John Marts

City Brazil **County** VIGO **State** IN

E-Mail Address j1marts1@yahoo.com

Comments I do not agree with allowing use of 243 or larger caliber for deer hunting in Indiana. We have enough problems with irresponsible hunters the way it is now. In addition my neighbor was nearly shot in her home by a rifle toting hunter a few years back. he was shooting at a deer without realizing that one of his bullets hit the bottom of her front door, it then cut through the front door mat and broke into several pieces that landed behind her in her kitchen while she was washing dishes. the hunter was 2 properties away. Leslie and Karl Oster. N Eppert St. Brazil, IN 47834. don't remember the exact year that it happened. we were able to find the hunter and he turned himself in to local game wardens. I feel that we have an adequate amount of calibers and methods to hunt deer now. No need for more rifle cartridges. this is not a sparsely populated western state! thank you

Comment Received 12/3/2014 10:12:30 PM

Commenter Name Jeremy limerick

City Punxsutawney **County** Out of State **State** PA

E-Mail Address limerickjeremy@yahoo.com

Comments Please do not start allowing center fire rifles in this state. Myself along with thousands of other PA hunters come to states like Indiana because your deer get much older because you can't shoot them at 400 yards with a high power. We have all agreed we won't be coming back next year if this law is passed

Comment Received 12/3/2014 10:20:11 PM

Commenter Name Michael Eldridge

City Columbus **County** BARTHOLOMEW **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address Mike.eldridge73@yahoo.com

Comments A bullet with a diameter of .243 or larger is safe to kill deer with. I hunted in other states while in the military and weapons of this size and larger are acceptable and are large enough to take the game. This should be allowed in Indiana.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 10:20:12 PM

Commenter Name Philip J Devening

City Freetown **County** JACKSON **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address justinjendev@msn.com

Comments Please do not pass the deer rifle law. We don't rifles to kill our deer. The range is dangerous for me with my neighbors shooting rifles. The harvest is record highs with 44 rifles, shotguns and bows.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 10:23:37 PM

Commenter Name Ralph Heifner

City Indianapolis **County** MARION **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address rheifner86@yahoo.com

Comments Deer hunting rule change to eliminate the maximum length of 1.8 inches maximum is dangerous and will greatly increase the effective killing range, and the number of shots crossing roads and private property. There is absolutely no good reason to allow super high powered rifle cartridges in Indiana for hunting. Cartridges that would be allowed with the proposed elimination of the maximum case length of 1.8 inches have range over 4 miles, which about doubles the range of the longest range rifles allowed in 2014 regulation and is about 4 times the range of long range shot gun sabots and muzzle loaders. Other States protect their public by not allowing high powered rifles for deer hunting. Indiana has pushed a reasonable limit with the 2014 regulations and I would encourage reasonable leaders to leave it where it is (1.8 inches max). The individuals in the most danger would be the other hunters and people in the woods. For them and farm animals the odds of surviving opening day would be significantly decreased. I appreciate the current desire of our State leaders to support the sportsman and for this handy forum to collect opinions.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 10:24:58 PM

Commenter Name Rick Pflanz

City Huntingburg **County** DUBOIS **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address rpflanz@hotmail.com

Comments I hunt deer with bow, crossbow, shotgun, muzzleloader and rifle. I have been fortunate enough to put four deer in our Hoosier Record book with a bow, shotgun, muzzleloader and now a rifle. I am a single father and my son usually goes along with me. I am in favor of this rule change for several reasons. One it allow me more choices to put a legal weapon in both my hands, and my sons. When crossbow was allowed in archery season it allowed me to hunt with my son during October archery season, november and december seasons. Before he could only come and watch me bow hunt as he was not big enough to pull back a bow. I ordered a custom rifle from JustHunt Guns last year which is easily a 400-500 yard gun and it falls in the guidelines of the state law and is legal. Coincidentally I shot my rifle buck last year with this rifle at 3 yards as the buck run directly under my treestand following a doe. It is expensive to reload this rifle and buy ammo. With the new rules change I can purchase cheaper ammo, and can advance my son up the rifle calibers chart as he grows with the simple purchase of a new barrel. This change will give hunters more choices. The safety factor people will preach about has nothing to do with firearm, but everything to do with the person using it. Is this not why we require Hunters Safety Course to be taken? Legalize high powered rifles and put the choice in what weapon to use with the hunters and parents out there. It will give us more freedom to choose what is best for our own circumstance. It will also free up our Conservation Officers from wasting time on what is legal to use and give them more time in catching poachers and those breaking more serious crimes. My father always told me to keep things simple. The current law is obsolete. With custom rifles and calibers it has complicated matters to where they were never intended. My advice is legalize high power rifles as presented and keep things simple. Thank you for your time in reading this. -Rick Pflanz

Comment Received 12/3/2014 10:29:10 PM

Commenter Name Josh Maggart

City Angola **County** STEUBEN **State** IN

E-Mail Address jmaggart3@gmail.com

Comments With the population and lack of "wide open" acreage in the state of Indiana, it is absolutely ludicrous to offer the option to hunt with high powered rifles for whitetail deer. For as long as I can remember, the reason for not allowing people to hunt with high power rifles is because of the fact of how many homes and people we have per square mile in this state, especially in Steuben county where I live. I have 3 boys ranging in age from 10-5. We live to hunt and fish. If this rule is allowed to go through, you as the elected officials to protect our wildlife, renewable resources, and citizens will openly put my boys in jeopardy each time we step outside. I absolutely oppose, reject and despise this proposal. This has got to be the

most absurd idea I have ever heard. I am going to state it once again... the population and homes per square mile in this area are numbers that simply do NOT allow for the use of high powered rifles for whitetail deer. Shut this down immediately!! The only people who are going to vote for this rule are people who do not possess the intelligence and common sense to ethically and feasibly harvest a whitetail deer. In my opinion, they are not hunters or sportsmen or conservationists. They are slobs. Vote this proposed bill OUT!!

Comment Received 12/3/2014 10:45:54 PM

Commenter Name Mark Stalets

City Indianapolis **County** MARION **State** Indiana

Organization (optional) private individual

E-Mail Address msrealtree345@sbcglobal.net

Comments I don't think the state should allow the use of high powered rifles. I don't think the terrain of this state is flat enough to allow these rifles to be used safely. I am also concerned about this proposed rule and the deer herd that appears to be under control at this time. With the most recent rule that allows anyone to use a crossbow during the entire archery season, the annual deer harvest for the state is sure to increase, thus keeping the population even closer to the needed healthy levels. I vote against this proposed rule. There have been other introductions in the last few years that have allowed more types of rifle calibers to be used. I also think that with the accuracy of these weapons, poaching is sure to be more of a problem. I think we are in good shape and no more rule changes are needed at this time. Please keep Indiana safe. Thanks, Mark Stalets.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 10:48:30 PM

Commenter Name Daniel Vogel

City North Vernon **County** JENNINGS **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address dan_2012_@hotmail.com

Comments Here are my opinions and a few questions...

The new deer hunting rifle sizes are nice and should increase interest in whitetail hunting and gun sales for Indiana.

312 IAC 9-3-12: So if a written consent is not required, how does a conservation officer check if someone is hunting legally? Personally I like the idea of not needing written proof because I hunt coyotes for many farmers around my area. I hate carrying around all the written papers. I just would like to know what the process would be if approached by a conservation officer. How do you prove that you are there with permission? Other than that, I fully agree with 312 IAC 9-3-12.

312 IAC 9-3-18.6: My family has property in Washington county where wild pigs are really starting to be a problem. From what I see here, I fully agree with these proposals.

312 IAC 9-5-6: This one is the one I am most in favor for. I fully agree with the game turtle changes and taking of frogs by air rifle.

312 IAC 9-7-2: ID number on trot lines I think is a great idea. I like the idea of the added privacy.

312 IAC 9-7-10: This is a great idea. It should help keep the sunfish from being picked clean by the time June comes.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 10:57:44 PM

Commenter Name Richard Voss

City south whitley **County** WHITLEY **State** IN

E-Mail Address rv6937@gmail.com

Comments I am for this change.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 11:00:34 PM

Commenter Name Kevin Grider

City Marion **County** GRANT **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address kgrider5@gmail.com

Comments Hi-Powered Rifles;

Indiana is special land, the deer we have the privilege of hunting deserve a realistic chance at living and thriving. Indiana is relatively flat land, the use of hi-powered rifles is not only dangerous to every other hunter out there (I've had a bullet wiz by me at Salamon, the guy just didnt see my orange hat or vest as i was passing through a grassy field), the people that will be using these rifles are the ones that just cant get it done with a bow or shotgun or muzzle loader, or even the 358 hoosier which is a ridiculous loophole already. They will be the ones stopping on the side of the road to shoot deer out in a field. If this is what Indiana does, I will be perpetually saddened.

I would much rather see the Lifetime License come back, something that wont get people killed and generate immediate revenue

Comment Received 12/3/2014 11:03:57 PM

Commenter Name David Flynn

City Bloomfield **County** GREENE **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address dfly70@yahoo.com

Comments I'm all for a rifle season in Indiana. Its been allowed in states with similar terrain with no major issues. I believe that most against it are against any change as we heard that allowing pistols caliber rifles would lead to "accidental deaths" and that Crossbows where basically a rifle.....

I am also for a suspension of Grouse hunting. I grew up hunting them in the Hickory Grove area and used to get 3 or 4 a season with my father. In the past 20 years I have seen 1 or less a season and heard none. If we can get the treehuggers to allow timbering again then maybe we can get the population to rebound, if not atleast we may see 1 or 2 a deer season just to bring back good memories.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 11:10:47 PM

Commenter Name Thad A. Stern

City Goshen **County** ELKHART **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address tandlster@gmail.com

Comments The use of center fire rifles to hunt deer in Indiana does not bother me.. but the thought that hunters may choose a semi-auto military style rifle that complies with the caliber restriction like a SKS or AK-47 that fires a 7.62x39 bullet in which the rifle is capable of large magazines does a little. The standard SKS has a ten round magazine. This would not be a problem with a responsible hunter.. I think a magazine capacity restriction to five rounds would be a good idea. If the center fire rifle idea was meeting with too much resistance then perhaps a cartridge specific option could be tried for a few years... calibers .30-.30, .35 Remington and .45-70 thank you for listening -Thad

Comment Received 12/3/2014 11:12:14 PM

Commenter Name Chuck Weigel

City Batesville **County** FRANKLIN **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address cweigel@etczone.com

Comments In my opinion it is a dire mistake allowing high powered rifles to be used for deer hunting in the State of Indiana. It has become very dangerous in recent years with all the hunters that have taken to the woods shooting at basically anything that moves. Most of the areas, especially in the southern half of the state, will put a lot of lives and property at risk from irresponsible people who don't particularly care which direction they shoot towards. In most instances, the range of a shot is less than 100 yards for most, due to the rugged terrain. I myself would rather be in the woods with a shotgun hunter than a person with a gun that shoots a considerably longer distance and a greater risk of a ricochet. I use to love going deer hunting during the firearm season, but anymore with the hunters shooting multiple times with a shotgun at a deer that starts running off, I have made the choice to harvest during archery season to remain safe. I really cannot fathom having these same hunters shooting at a fleeing deer with a high powered rifle. I think the powers that be at the DNR should sit in the woods on opening day and listen to what is happening and I think they would understand what I am talking about. If we were residing in a State for example like Colorado, it would not be an issue due to being less populated. I hope this legislation does not pass!

Thank you!

Thank you!

Comment Received 12/3/2014 11:14:52 PM

Commenter Name Gary Gillette

City Dunkirk **County** JAY **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address flyngeagle47@gmail.com

Comments Blue Gill may be part of the sunfish family, but they reproduce so fast that they will never decrease in population. I don't feel they should be limited to just 25 per person.

Comment Received 12/3/2014 11:18:08 PM

Commenter Name Kenneth Hammond

City Nashville **County** BROWN **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address k.hammond15008@sbcglobal.net

Comments My opinion as well as many other hunters I know is that there are not enough deer to hunt ! So in regards to that I don't think that rifles should be allowed to take deer and I think that there should only be one if any bonus antler less tags ! I have kids that I would like to take hunting and have but they do not enjoy it if they don't at least see some deer while hunting on a regular basis ! This is not just my opinion but many other hunters !

Comment Received 12/3/2014 11:21:11 PM

Commenter Name Marty Davison

City Columbia City **County** WHITLEY **State** IN

E-Mail Address marty_amy@embarqmail.com

Comments I am absolutely against the idea of allowing high-powered rifles for deer hunting! All this will do is encourage people to try to take extremely long shots and end up with more wounded deer. Not to mention the safety issues with all of our closely populated farm grounds! I wish we didn't even allow the handgun caliber rifle loads that have been legalized in the last couple years. Too many people are buying guns like the .44 magnum rifle and trying to kill deer at 200-300 yards because it looks like a high powered rifle. Then they walk over and don't find blood so they go out and shoot another one even though the first one is already dead but not leaving a blood trail! .44's do not leave an adequate entrance hole. At that distance they rarely exit the body so it leaves only one hole the size of a pencil to trail the deer by. As stewards of the land and the animals we love, we should not promote laws that entice our hunters to extend the length of their shots beyond what is ethical! If you can't get within 100 yards of your quarry, you should stay at home and stop wounding deer! Our deer population is horrible in the past 3 years and I blame it on these new rifles and the state's all-out war on our doe population! Get your act together and stop working for only the insurance companies, big farming and license revenues!!!!

Comment Received 12/3/2014 11:58:29 PM

Commenter Name Jason Owens

City New Castle **County** HENRY **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address jowens867@gmail.com

Comments I fully support the changes to the deer firearm equipment. Opening up the allowed firearms and cartridges only makes sense.

Comment Received 12/4/2014 12:14:01 AM

Commenter Name Ryan Gick

City Fort Wayne **County** ALLEN **State** IN

E-Mail Address subzero350@frontier.com

Comments I am IN FAVOR of the proposal that would drop the maximum case length limitation for rifle cartridges legal for hunting deer in Indiana. Aren't such cartridges already legal to use to hunt Coyote in Indiana anyway?

If there is a safety concern about high powered rifle rounds being used to hunt deer in Indiana, then I recommend those who are concerned check into the Pennsylvania Rifle Study; specifically the risks associated with slower, heavier shotgun slugs and ricochets.

Furthermore, there are already a number of "wildcat" centerfire rifle cartridges that are now being used - like the Hoosier .358 (and are legal for hunting deer under current law) that perform very close to "off the shelf" high powered centerfire rifle cartridges. One has to pay a large sum of money to buy a gun or have an existing one modified that will fire something like the .358 Hoosier. It would be nice to be able to use a much less expensive rifle and hunt deer with low cost, off-the-shelf ammunition.

Besides the restrictions on the use of firearms in urban areas that already exist today, I do NOT think it is necessary to put further restrictions on where the proposed new rifle cartridges can be used to hunt deer in Indiana if this rule change passes. To my knowledge, no such restrictions currently exist for hunting Coyote with the same equipment.

Comment Received 12/4/2014 12:21:44 AM

Commenter Name brian cleary

City Guilford **County** DEARBORN **State** indiana

E-Mail Address albccleary@gmail.com

Comments Encourage vote to allow deer hunting with rifles as new proposal reads. BUT, I do believe there should be rule limiting the amount of cartridges allowed in the magazine to 5 MAXIMUM please for safety sake.

Comment Received 12/4/2014 12:43:31 AM

Commenter Name Matt Wohlford

City Kokomo **County** HOWARD **State** IN

E-Mail Address wohlford870@yahoo.com

Comments I would like to give a recommendation on the proposed change for the use of rifles during the firearm season. This will be one of the biggest mistakes made by the DNR to allow such changes. I hunt mainly in the Howard, Cass, and Miami county area, where the farms are smaller and more cut up. I would venture to say that most of Indiana is like this, and each farm can host a number of hunters that is not known to everyone hunting the area. Then adding in the close proximity to the houses in the area, we are setting ourselves up to fail as a hunting community. There will be countless houses, vehicles, livestock, and god forbid people if this law is allowed to go into effect. I strongly urge you to reconsider this new change. I am drawing my conclusion based on trajectory of the proposed rifles. Once fired there is no stopping these bullets for over a mile or farther. There is no need for this change, shotguns, pistol cartridges in a long gun, muzzleloaders, and handguns and all very sufficient and do not present the problems that these high powered rifles do. Thank you for your time in reading this it is greatly appreciated.

Matt Wohlford

Comment Received 12/4/2014 12:51:54 AM

Commenter Name Jameson Olson

City Huntington County HUNTINGTON State Indiana

E-Mail Address midwestbowhunter@gmail.com

Comments I would like to express some concern over a few of the proposals. First, the proposed wording for the definition of a crossbow is incorrect. A crossbow does not shoot an "arrow", it shoots a bolt. Being that a crossbow is NOT a bow, I think it's important that the proper term is used in the definition. Second, I am against the legalization of high powered rifles for deer season. Besides the obvious dangers, too many deer are being killed in Indiana during hunting season as it is. High powered rifles will just be another tool used in the mismanagement of our deer herd.

Comment Received 12/4/2014 12:53:04 AM

Commenter Name EARNIE NEEDHAM

City INDIANAPOLIS County MARION State Indiana

E-Mail Address NEEDHAMSRULE@SBCGLOBAL.NET

Comments The rule about rifle calibers is long overdue, especially on private land. I am glad that common sense and a bit more knowledge of ballistics is being used by the committee. Thank you.

Comment Received 12/4/2014 12:55:23 AM

Commenter Name Bruce Campbell

City Whiteland County JOHNSON State Indiana

E-Mail Address brsups@comcast.net

Comments I am strongly against the amendment to 312 iac 9-3-3 authorizing the use of high powered rifles for deer hunting. I am an avid deer hunter and have been hunting for over 30 yrs. I archery hunt and gun hunt. I spend a substantial amount of money every year on licenses and equipment. I hunt on private ground and on State land. This year I have heard and been told by DNR that the deer numbers are down, due to two years of drought and EHD. I believe this is true based on my over 30 days in the field this year. Authorizing high power rifles will only decrease the herd substantially. I also believe it will entice irresponsible hunters into taking extremely long range shots that they would not attempt now. I believe that the average gun hunter does not put in the practice that would make a 300 yard shot safe. Also they dont consider the back stop of there off target shots. I hunt private ground that is up against Yellowood state forest and some of the one weekend a year hunters with a high power rifle will make me reconsider if I want to be out there with my friends and children. I know there are a lot a responsible hunters out there but unfortunately there are a lot of irresponsible ones I have witness this first hand. Please do not pass this law especially the next few years after the herd has recovered from the drought. Thanks you for all your efforts. Bruce Campbell

Comment Received 12/4/2014 1:04:42 AM

Commenter Name Jeff Tucker

City Claypool County KOSCIUSKO State IN

E-Mail Address jeffery.tucker@zimmer.com

Comments My comments are regarding the proposal to allow certain high powered rifles during the Indiana deer hunting season. I would like to state that I am strongly against the proposal allowing high powered rifles especially in Kosciusko County where there are homes located every 1/4 to 1/2 a mile and country roads are in most cases located within close proximity to woods and fields. These high powered rifles in many cases can travel miles if a miss occurs. I work at Zimmer in Warsaw and have not spoke with anyone that thinks this proposal is a good idea and many, including myself, have expressed that they will not hunt during this season if this is allowed! This is completely insane, not safe, and pathetic if this is the only way a person can kill a deer. Someone will get killed and the Indiana DNR should be the ones sued for millions for their stupidity if this proposal goes through. The deer #'s in our county are the lowest I have seen in 25 years and the deer kill needs lowered even more if we intend to recruit future generations of hunters. My boys don't even want to waste their time, nor do I, if they are not seeing deer when they go out. We pay a lot of money each year for multiple deer tags for me and my family and we expect the DNR to manage the deer herd in favor of the hunters not the damn farmers and insurance companies! I know for a fact that there is a political factor to the elimination of the deer herd which has ruined the quality of our hunts along with EHD and a high coyote population. It is up to the DNR to further reduce the bonus doe quotas and preserve our deer herd & not wipe out our deer herd as many lobbist would prefer by adding high powered weapons and excessively long seasons especially during the rut. Thank you for your time.

Regards,

Jeff Tucker

Comment Received 12/4/2014 1:17:10 AM

Commenter Name Dan Owczarzak

City Highland County LAKE State Indiana

E-Mail Address dano1004134@att.net

Comments Rabbit hunting should be allowed untill sunset on all state properties.

Comment Received 12/4/2014 1:18:04 AM

Commenter Name Andrew M. Aker

City Plymouth County MARSHALL State Indiana

E-Mail Address andy.aker@oasisbath.com

Comments My name is Andy Aker. I am a born and raised 35-year old resident of Marshall County, Indiana. I consider myself part of an elite group of trophy deer hunters located in Northern Indiana. As a group, we manage thousands of acres of pristine and groomed whitetail habitat consisting of hundreds of Indiana's resident whitetail deer.

There are several Indiana deer hunting regulations currently prohibiting two of the three conditions needed to grow and harvest trophy whitetail deer:

1. Indiana has 32 days available for firearms and muzzle loader antlered deer hunting. This enables a much greater opportunity for an antlered deer harvest. The typical deer hunter in Indiana does not possess a self-imposed antler or age restriction when harvesting an antlered deer. The result is an overall younger buck harvest.
2. A portion of Indiana's firearms season coincides with the whitetail breeding season. The rut typically brings down the guard of whitetail bucks. The rut coinciding with the firearms season, when most hunters are in the woods, results in hunters having more opportunity to harvest a buck. Most deer hunters in Indiana do not have a self-imposed antler or age restriction when harvesting antlered deer, resulting in an immature buck harvest in Indiana.
3. Indiana allows only one buck to be harvested by a hunter within a season. It is necessary to harvest less than desirable older age class bucks from a particular deer herd to enable the "trophy" genetics to flourish. By limiting the antlered deer harvest for each hunter to one antlered deer per season, there are more deer exhibiting poor antler characteristics that live to breed another season.

Legalizing .243 or larger diameter bullet size and a casing of 1 1/16" or larger (high powered rifles) will further directly affect the ability to grow and harvest trophy whitetail bucks. This will be accomplished by extending the effective range of the average Indiana whitetail deer hunter to 300 yards and beyond. This proposal becoming effective will increase the antlered deer harvest in Indiana. The result of an increased buck harvest will drive the average age of antlered deer harvested in Indiana downward and further decrease the ability to grow and harvest trophy whitetail deer in Indiana.

Another result of this proposal in effect will further distance the targets from the hunters. By increasing the effective range of the weapons available, one result can be poor identification of the targeted game. Hunters with poor optics and patience will be less likely to identify a target prior to executing the shot. More young deer exhibiting exceptional genetic makeup and button bucks will be harvested by mistake.

High powered rifles will be discharged more often, closer to and within our rural communities. The rounds available in the proposal are some of the same rounds our United States military uses against our worst enemies. The distance, velocity and energy some of these rounds produce are much greater than most of what is available under today's regulations en mass. These rounds will be discharged in great numbers on a more regular basis.

I know why this proposal is on the table. The previous regulation of minimum .357 bullet diameter and a case of 1 1/16" to 1.8" previously passed, exhibit much greater ballistics than anticipated. The wildcat rounds spawned from the current regulation passing, possess similar performance to some of the proposed traditional high powered rifle rounds.

There is a difference. Under the current regulation (minimum .357 bullet diameter and a case of 1 1/16" to 1.8"), the traditional Indiana whitetail deer hunter will not make the investment to hunt with this technology. Thus, the volume of hunters using this weapon will continue to be low in numbers. The high volume of hunters that will use high powered rifles under the new proposal will increase dramatically. Most hunters either own or have access to traditional high powered rifles.

Let's ask ourselves some questions:

1. Why do other states in the Midwest prohibit the use of high powered rifles?
2. Do we want these types of weapons discharged on a more regular basis in our backyards and by the hunter on our property line?
3. Is it important to harvest more bucks?
4. What are the long term goals for Indiana's deer herd?
4. Does Indiana desire to become a more coveted destination for trophy deer hunters?
5. How much license revenue would be generated if Indiana became a trophy whitetail destination for non-residents?
6. What if we proposed .35 REM, .30-30, .45-70 and similar short range calibers as a middle ground?

I would be glad to assist with anything ensuring that Indiana's trophy whitetail potential does not further degrade. I would also love to support any regulation improving the ability to grow more and bigger trophy Indiana whitetail deer.

I am available by e-mail or by phone.

Andy Aker

(574) 780-0342

Comment Received 12/4/2014 1:18:18 AM

Commenter Name Andy wilson

City Cedar grove **County** FRANKLIN **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address Deer222@hotmail.com

Comments Hello there i would like to talk about the high powered rifle rule. I have been hunting in indiana since i learned to walk i have hunted with bow ,shotgun, muzzleloader i have hunted on 500 down to 2 acers and i have never seen the use to shoot at a range high powered rifle are capable of! There aren't many private land owners that have enough land to hunt to shoot the distance that a high powered rifle is capable of north of franklin county all the way up to northern indiana is flat farmland while the southern half is rolling hills with choked up hollows some places so thick there is no need to hunt with a high powered rifle! Im not against it but i think indiana is just fine the way the deer weapons are right now. I also see the possible addition to the high powered rifle as scaring land owners as the range of the bullets can go a long way. i remember when i was a kid when i went through my I.H.E.C i remember a conservation officer telling me a story about a high powered rifle accident in indiana and the shot was over a mile and a half away the outcome was not good and ill never forget the story. If indiana is going to add high powered rifles to the deer season i think extra training and danger awareness should be taught or classes should be held regardless of age! I dont think indiana needs it i just see it as possibly bringing out poachers or results in people trying to shoot across roads rivers and longer than needed shots possibly shooting houses cars airplanes livestock! I think indiana is great the way the season is now! I have alot reasons me and about 25 of my hunting buddies can think of not adding high powered rifles to our deer season. I say no to the high powered rifle just dont see a need for it. Thanks

Comment Received 12/4/2014 1:25:24 AM

Commenter Name Thomas Robinson

City Romney County TIPPECANOE State Indiana

E-Mail Address tomrob_0722@yahoo.com

Comments I am glad that the indiana department of natural resources are giving hunters accross the state of indiana an opportunity to share their views of the ruling of 312 IAC 9-3-3... it's what really counts. However, i am against making rifle hnting part of the deer hunting season because of the range high powered rifles have. It is obvious that these bullets are capable of traveling long distances, but we are not looking in the cracks. Other than southern indiana, the lay of the land is very flat, and more places than not, properties that we hunt on do not give us the space to shoot extended range without shooting onto a neighboring property. The name of the game is getting as close as you can to an animal to make a leathal, ethical shot, and if somebody has a rifle in their hands and doesnt think they could get any closer to their quarry, they are more than likely going to make an unethical shot just because that person may think "I have a rifle with plenty of power to make this shot" That bullet might end up tumbling through a wood lot, pasture, or creek bottom and into a residential area or even wores, a families living room. there are already hunters out there hunting coyotes with them, and my guess is that there are probably double that percentage that deer hunt. Just like everywhere else in this world, it only takes one person to make the wrong mistake and ruin it for everyone else. There are already firearms that hunters accross the state can legally use to hunt deer that are capable of making long range shots. Thank you for reading

Comment Received 12/4/2014 1:30:18 AM

Commenter Name Ryan Retz

City Tipton County TIPTON State Indiana

E-Mail Address Retzoid@hotmail.com

Comments I am writing you today to voice my opinion on the use of high powered rifles in Indiana for deer hunting. The new rule changes which are proposed to allow .243 caliber and larger have to be STOPPED or a lot of restrictions added to this amendment. I, as many Hoosiers, live in a flat agricultural county. My family have always been sportsman and love harvesting animals in all different seasons. The use of a weapon that may possibly go 1-2 miles is crazy. The common person who only hunts during firearms season does not understand the capabilities of these weapons proposed for hunting next year. The so called "pop shot" will take on a whole new meaning. I believe if you are going to allow these they must be restricted. Some ideas I have and fellow hunters who I have spoke with, who all agree this is bad and lives will be lost, are as follows:

Can only be used from an elevated shot, creating down ward trajectory

Limited by county just like bonus deer...flat county no use.

Specify caliber. Put limits on caliber that can be used..example a 7mm rem mag falls into the new allowed rifle..effective kill range of nearly 1 mile. Bullet may travel up to 3 miles. So before making this decision drive 3 miles and count the number of potential victims, cars, and homes that may get hit.

Please reconsider this decision or defiantly put a lot more restriction on its use!

Comment Received 12/4/2014 1:44:43 AM

Commenter Name Carl Adkins

City Crothersville County JACKSON State Indiana

E-Mail Address cadk1110@twc.com

Comments I am in favor of the use of rifles in the caliber or .243 or larger. I believe this would be more humane than other legal usages and may reduce the number of wounded deer that suffer slow agonizing deaths.

Comment Received 12/4/2014 2:57:26 AM

Commenter Name Steven L. Zagrodnik

City Oak Forest County Out of State State IL

E-Mail Address slzagrodnik@wideopenwest.com

Comments I believe that high power rifle is acceptable and safe for deer hunting. I have deer hunted in Indiana for many years. Knowing your rifle's trajectory and always knowing what's beyond the animal is vital to safe and ethical hunting. I've

hunted out West for antelope, mule deer, and elk. All animals were harvested with one shot. I am also a high power target rifle competitor.

Comment Received 12/4/2014 4:01:15 AM

Commenter Name Kelly Kopp

City Batesville **County** FRANKLIN **State** IN

E-Mail Address beaverwoman@fuse.net

Comments I wish to comment on the use of high powered rifles, which I don't have a problem with. But I wish to note that I am an avid deer hunter and am noticing all around in my area (SW Franklin Co.) a dramatic decrease in the number of deer. I think this should be looked into. If from blue tongue, I have not found any carcasses near water on my property. I have been seeing/hearing lots more coyotes the past couple of years, and have, as always, heard of neighbors with depredation permits, neighbors bragging on killing the 8 doe limits, etc. I think the doe limit in Franklin county should be looked at.

Comment Received 12/4/2014 4:08:13 AM

Commenter Name Randy Ostendorf

City Greensburg **County** DECATUR **State** Indiana

Organization (optional) Rifles

E-Mail Address randy.ostendorf@frontier.com

Comments I have hunted with a rifle in KY for many years even in the state parks and not once did I ever see or hear of an incident. Not to say an accident couldn't happen but it's highly unlikely. All the weapons we are currently allowed to use now hear in Indiana have the potential to shoot the same as high power rifles. I am for the use of High Powered Rifles! God Bless!

Comment Received 12/4/2014 4:25:08 AM

Commenter Name johnathon shull

City butler **County** DEKALB **State** indiana

E-Mail Address johnathonshull82@gmail.com

Comments sorry if this is not in right place can you please get it there thanks so much

I have a really hard time with use thinking about bring big guns in to are deer seasons. we are ready have people getting the shit scared out of them when a bullets going flying by just think about it how many hills are between you and the next woods over. or how many houses are in the line of a bullet just like what happen in butler indiana guy out side of town shooting gun (223) one mile out and bullet hits a guy in town. i really hope we dont pass this law

Comment Received 12/4/2014 5:07:06 AM

Commenter Name Tom Ruff

City Akron **County** FULTON **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address tndruff@gmail.com

Comments I find the proposal for high powered rifles a very dangerous one. I live in the rural part of the county and from my house i can see seven other houses. This covers over a mile country block because of the flatness of the land. If a person is not capable of killing a deer(the very few that are left) with the weapons legal to use now, then they are not capable of killing a deer with a high powered rifle. Why add more danger to the incompetent hunter.

The 25 pan fish limit would hurt more than it would help. The lakes don't get enough pan fish taken out of them now. I believe this would cause slow growth due to the over population competing for food. I have fished several lakes from northern to southern part of the state and have not come across a lake that has been over fished for pan fish. This proposal had to come from fisherman that were not smart enough to find and catch them. Pan fish that can spawn two to three months in a row has to be harvested heavily in order to promote healthy growth rates not stunted growth. Your biologist should be able to confirm this.

Regards,

Tom Ruff

Comment Received 12/4/2014 5:08:56 AM

Commenter Name Jonathan R Mauk

City Warsaw **County** KOSCIUSKO **State** IN

E-Mail Address jrmauk@comcast.net

Comments Changing the rifle bullet min. dia. to .243 and removing the max. brass length would help me out as I'm getting older. I can still shoot very well and would like to use the .308 caliber for more legal killing distance during the Deer seasons. Thank You

Comment Received 12/4/2014 5:13:56 AM

Commenter Name Brad Garriss

City Ft. Branch **County** GIBSON **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address garrissb17@gmail.com

Comments Allowing rifles for hunting is a great idea. Indiana already allows certain rifles for deer and has had no negative incidents regarding them. Other states with similar or greater human populations and similar terrain allow rifles for deer, so I

see no reason to exclude them here.

Comment Received 12/4/2014 5:44:39 AM

Commenter Name Joseph Schlabach

City Shipshewana **County** LAGRANGE **State** Indiana

Organization (optional) Shipshe Trailers

E-Mail Address joessw@maplenet.net

Comments I don't want the high power rifles, Theres to many houses around, and we have a lot of young inexperienced hunters

Comment Received 12/4/2014 5:55:30 AM

Commenter Name pat cardwell

City hardinsburg **County** WASHINGTON **State** indiana

E-Mail Address pat.cardwell@outlook.com

Comments I own a 115 acre farm in Hardinsburg, In.

There are several large farms adjacent to mine which have corn fields.

The local farmers are against this proposal due to harvesting their corn during Deer season.

They are afraid of being hit during Deer season by high powered rifle bullets.

I hunt with crossbow and get all the Deer I want.

Please don't pass this proposal for the farmer's safety.

Comment Received 12/4/2014 6:07:25 AM

Commenter Name Christopher Neff

City Danville **County** HENDRICKS **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address dlosttrucker@yahoo.com

Comments I am completely for The use Of rifles For Deer season. Thank You .

Comment Received 12/4/2014 6:08:52 AM

Commenter Name Jerome Tourney

City Uniondale **County** WELLS **State** IN

E-Mail Address jrtourney@netzero.com

Comments Pleas vote no on the proposed High Power Rifle Rule. Gun season is already dangerous enough with the PCR and shotguns being able to hold 6-8 rounds a one time. I do not want my neighbor who is more than a ¼ mile away shooting at a deer and have the him miss and the bullet ricochet and go thru my house, barn or any vehicle I may have parked in the driveway. If we cannot humanely take a deer with what is now legal, giving my fellow hunters more choices is not going to help. Let's be smart and make us hunters hone our skills with what we have, not give them an easier way to shoot a deer. We do not have enough opportunities in Wells County to take extra chances at shooting a deer, choose one of the already legal cartridges and practice, practice, practice then if you have a shot, you are confident in your abilities. Too many people blame the gun and not the hunter! Please do not pass the High Power Rifle rule, if so, you will not find me in the woods during gun season, which means you will not have the money from me purchasing a gun license.

Comment Received 12/4/2014 6:13:31 AM

Commenter Name Aleisa Hunter

City New Palestine **County** HANCOCK **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address adhunter@stvincent.org

Comments Will any of the rules as to hunting on your own agricultural or wooded property without having to purchase a license being changed? I hope not.

Comment Received 12/4/2014 6:15:52 AM

Commenter Name Eric Skiles

City New Paris **County** ELKHART **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address skilescustomtile@yahoo.com

Comments I am not in support of allowing rifles to be used to hunt deer that do not use pistol cartridges. The higher velocity bullets travel farther and the majority of Indiana is too flat of terrain. My home has already been hit from a high speed errant .22 caliber round from a great distance. A larger faster round would have had potential for more penetration and damage into my home. I use a .44 mag rifle to hunt deer currently and I see no need for any reason to change. Hunters need to be patient and learn better hunting skills to bring themselves closer to their game if the added range is their motivation to want a high powered rifle. Please do not pass this amendment. Thank you.

Eric Skiles

Comment Received 12/4/2014 6:28:58 AM

Commenter Name George Habenicht

City Seymour **County** JACKSON **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address habenichtg@scsc.k12.in.us

Comments I am in favor of the HPR.

I am not in favor of baiting deer.

Thank you
Comment Received 12/4/2014 6:31:03 AM

Commenter Name Don Hess
City North Vernon **County** JENNINGS **State** IN
E-Mail Address dhess@circlek.com
Comments I support the rule allowing high powered rifles for use during the deer firearm seasons.
Comment Received 12/4/2014 6:31:24 AM

Commenter Name Joseph Gibbons
City Frankton **County** MADISON **State** IN
E-Mail Address jgibbons@rexcollinselectric.com
Comments I disagree with the use of high powered rifles for use during deer firearms season. I feel the number of hunters in the woods, including teenagers, makes this a more dangerous environment. I have heard the argument that muzzle loaders using smokeless powder offer similar range as many rifles. They however do not offer multiple follow up shots at a running deer that may cross the "path" of another hunter sitting in the distance.
Comment Received 12/4/2014 6:37:07 AM

Commenter Name jerry st john
City north vernon **County** JENNINGS **State** in
E-Mail Address jstjohn11@hotmail.com
Comments I am very much in favor of allowing high powered rifles for deer hunting as perposed
Comment Received 12/4/2014 6:37:07 AM

Commenter Name Wes Engle
City Angola **County** STEUBEN **State** IN
E-Mail Address hankengle@yahoo.com
Comments As a younger man I would have been all for allowing high-powered rifles to be used for harvesting deer. Hopefully I have gained some maturity as I have aged and I have serious concerns about allowing this. The increase in bullet flight with high-powered rifles is considerable over current "legal" options. I live in the country where such rounds would be used and shudder at the thought of errant bullets traveling through houses, animals, and even people. In my opinion Indiana is too densely populated and the risk is too great. 30 years ago there were numerous places to hunt woodchucks with my 22-250 but most of those places now have houses on them. If such a rule change costs one life then it would not be worth it in my opinion. Safe hunting!
Comment Received 12/4/2014 6:38:34 AM

Commenter Name Thomas Meisner
City Fremont **County** STEUBEN **State** IN
E-Mail Address mauser1709@hotmail.com
Comments I believe the high power deer rifle to be a much more humane method of harvesting deer. We live in a rural area and do not feel threatened by the use of firearms that are also used for woodchucks, coyote and target.
Comment Received 12/4/2014 6:42:26 AM

Commenter Name Brian martin
City Seymour **County** BARTHOLOMEW **State** Ind
E-Mail Address Bam1516316@gmail.com
Comments On the purposed rule of using high powered rifles for deer I am for it. There is a some concern about hunters (shooter) spraying and praying at deer. It might happen but then again there are morons out there hunting now. They are few and far between. Most hunters are responsible law abiding citizens. We shouldn't let a few dictate the rules. For most, rifles are easier to shoot accurately because they have less recoil than shotgun slugs and this translates into less lost and wounded deer. On thing I would purpose is a magazine limit, say 5 rounds. That would limit the very few (spray and pray shooters). Thanks for your time, Brian
Comment Received 12/4/2014 6:42:40 AM

Commenter Name Jacob Klapheke
City Ramsey **County** HARRISON **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address Jacob.Klapheke@gmail.com
Comments I just wanted to extend my support for legalizing rifles for deer hunting. I also hunt in Kentucky and use a rifle, and I feel it leads to a overall better hunting experience. When I hunt in Kentucky, I do not have to worry about my shotgun hitting its mark (because they are awful). If rifles are legalized, I believe more deer will be harvested and less will wounded and therefore wasted.

Thanks again and I'll keep my fingers crossed!
 Jacob
Comment Received 12/4/2014 6:44:23 AM

Commenter Name david evans
City decatur **County** ADAMS **State** indiana
Organization (optional) avid hunter
E-Mail Address motorman@embarqmail.com
Comments High power rifles? straight wall cartrages like 45/70 or 444 marlin. The 30/30, 35 Remington, 7/30waters and 243 Winchester. Personaly I feel these cartrages would be acceptable. These calibers are 100 to 150 yard guns then they loose velocity fast. Cartrages I think SHOULD NOT BE USED. the 30/06, 270 308, 300winmag and larger. These cartrages have to much long range travel. ther will be inexperienced hunters taking pot shots at a big buck out in a field and not being sure of whats in the background because they get excited. Plus the last two years I havnt got a deer. I bought a bundle tag each year. Personaly I think when the state went to online tagging that a lot more deer are getting killed than reported. Thank you for hearing my opinion. David Eva s avid hunter and Sportsman
Comment Received 12/4/2014 6:47:26 AM

Commenter Name Chris Cleefman
City Rensselaer **County** JASPER **State** Indiana
Organization (optional) n/a
E-Mail Address brook.cleefman@gmail.com
Comments My comment is specifically targeted toward the proposed use of high powered rifles. The wording should be changed to add restriction to case length for maximum length. 2.5" case length is a good length to open up a lot of quality calibers without allowing an individual to us a .500" BMG for deer hunting.
Comment Received 12/4/2014 6:57:58 AM

Commenter Name Ronald Frick
City Pittsboro **County** HENDRICKS **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address ronfrick99@yahoo.com
Comments I do not think it is a good idea to change the rifle caliber to allow any high power cartridge larger than 243. Indiana is not open enough to allow this type of gun to be used. If the department wants to help the hunting of deer change the seasons to early gun and late gun. Allow any legal firearm to be used in either season, that will allow hunters more time to hunt with the guns they own. The muzzle gun season doesn't make much since anymore with the guns that are made today.
Comment Received 12/4/2014 7:02:26 AM

Commenter Name Travis Offill
City W. Harrison **County** FRANKLIN **State** IN
E-Mail Address newtrentonwoodsandwater@gmail.com
Comments Rifles are no different than a muzzleloader or a fully rifled slug gun. I live 20 min from Kentucky and have heard no ill effects of useing rifles. Each county may have a different outlook
Comment Received 12/4/2014 7:05:57 AM

Commenter Name Darrin S. Everett
City columbus **County** BARTHOLOMEW **State** indiana
E-Mail Address darrin.everett@faurecia.com
Comments Im all for it . Its about time . I like the idea of a high powered rifle season.
Comment Received 12/4/2014 7:06:29 AM

Commenter Name Darrell Parker
City Fort Branch **County** GIBSON **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address dparker215@twc.com
Comments There is absolutely no reason for a high powered rifle to ne used in Indiana for Deer Hunting. I believe Indiana allows a more than fair variety of weapons to be used for the deer hunting season's. High powered rifles would be a tragic addition to those weapons allowed. I have always thought a big part of deer hunting was seeing if the hunter was able to get the deer close enough to the hunter to first: identify the object as being a deer, second: safely harvesting the deer without putting other hunters in danger. As a hunter in southern Indiana for nearly 40 years I have seen and heard many stories about the one that got shot and was not found, extend the range that people can shoot and there will be an extreme increase in shots that should not have been taken that end up in wounded animals. Then there are those hunters that we don't like to think about but are abundant, the shoot at anything that moves hunter. Put a long range high power rifle in their hands and we will have problems that I do not want to see. I have been in the woods on many occasions when I hear a shot fired and then hear a Bullitt whiz by. Indiana does not need a weapon that allows shots at 300 yards or more. I would hope that careful consideration is taken before allowing a high powered rifle to be used for hunting in Indiana. I believe we should focus more on the problems we have now, poaching, trespassing, and dangerous hunting. Shotgun, Bow, Crossbow, Handgun, Rifle (Handgun Rounds), Muzzle Loader, seems to me we have plenty of options. This is my opinion, I am not saying that every hunter grabs a gun and goes into the woods is a dangerous person, I don't want hunters taking my comments out of context. The major majority of hunters are safe and play by the rules but as with most everything in life there are those who break the rules because they are lazy. Lets not put a long range weapon in the hands of a person who would only be a danger to and cause harm to other hunters.
Comment Received 12/4/2014 7:16:00 AM

Commenter Name Carl Garringer
City Fort Wayne **County** ALLEN **State** IN
E-Mail Address carl.garringer@stld.com

Comments I am writing because of my disagreement with the proposed rifle amendment. I believe that this is another attempt by the Indiana DNR to decrease hunting opportunities for Hoosier hunters. A combination of disease, hard winters, extremely liberal bag limits, and this late bonus only season have all played a part in eradicating the deer herd in this state. Land that once had actual herds on them have nothing now and the bag limits remain the same. Adding high-powered rifles to this already devastating situation will only empower people who have no business hunting to feel like they can now extend their effective distance. This will result in more crippled deer in addition to errant bullets that have a much more travel distance than any smokeless muzzleloader bullet. Once again, I believe that this is another attempt by the Department of Natural Resources to eliminate deer hunting in this state. As the past few seasons have already demonstrated, even the current one, the DNR's management style of eradicating deer and eliminating them from this state, has proven quite successful. The current deer hunting situation in this state is the worst condition I have seen it since I started hunting over twenty years ago. Perhaps the DNR should focus less on adding more weapons with which to kill and instead on preserving and maybe flourishing what deer we still have.

Comment Received 12/4/2014 7:16:26 AM

Commenter Name Dale Moore
City Goshen **County** ELKHART **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address dalem@dimensionsintooling.com

Comments With all the wild cat rounds we have now and are able to use. I use a .358wssm. Its almost like a .308 rifle. We might as we use standard high power rifles. Maybe no magnum loads though.

Comment Received 12/4/2014 7:19:15 AM

Commenter Name Jerad Tallman
City Greenwood **County** JOHNSON **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address jeradtallman@yahoo.com

Comments I 100% disagree with the use of high powered rifles to deer hunt in Indiana. I know it is legal to use them while hunting predators in this state but the number of predator hunters in this state do not compare to the number of deer hunters in the woods. In certain and most parts of the state a 300 yard shot isn't even possible to attempt let alone responsible to take. MOST Hunters in Indiana hunt small tracts of land mostly, making it unsafe to be in the woods shooting a firearm that may have a range of 800+ yards. It also in my opinion will lead to a lot of unethical shots taken at deer. How many people are capable of shooting a firearm 500 yards? Not many but with hunters knowing their gun is capable of those distances unethical shots will be taken.

Comment Received 12/4/2014 7:27:58 AM

Commenter Name Dave Philpott
City Waveland **County** MONTGOMERY **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address dd.philpott@att.net

Comments We do NOT need high powered rifles to help reduce the deer herd. Nature is reducing the herd by its self ... CWD /blue tongue etc..... Plus it creates a hazard for people who live in a rural setting because of the additional travel distance of the bullet from a rifle. It is acceptable out west where you can see for miles and not see a homestead. Indiana is not that barren of a landscape.
 Thank you

Comment Received 12/4/2014 7:28:26 AM

Commenter Name bryan mccutcheon
City fredericksburg **County** WASHINGTON **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address djbm88@hotmail.com

Comments fully support the rifle change for deer hunting. Other states are way ahead of Indiana and with the advancements in so called muzzle loaders they can shoot just as far and are as powerful as the rifles being considered. I myself feel a rifle is safer than a muzzle loader and fully support this change

Comment Received 12/4/2014 7:29:12 AM

Commenter Name Brad Schilling
City Auburn **County** DEKALB **State** IN
E-Mail Address emlogpark@hotmail.com

Comments I agree with a pan-fish limit. I like the idea of adding more rifle calibers to hunting deer in Indiana, however I am not sure that the "long range" rifles are needed. I think adding rounds such as the 30-30 and 45-75 would be great, but rounds like the 30-06 might be a little long for young and inexperienced hunters.

Comment Received 12/4/2014 7:29:39 AM

Commenter Name Murl Robinson
City Brownstown **County** JACKSON **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address Murl.robinson@ucb.com

Comments I have hunted my whole life and my wife hunts with me and my sons. We hunt in northern Indiana and southern Indiana and the deer hunting just keeps getting worse as the years progress. We need to adopt hunting seasons similar to

Illinois and iowa , and ohio. The one buck rule we established has not done any good . we need to shorten these gun seasons to get our deer back and not harvest so many does. the one buck rule has not produced larger bucks by no means at all . when you drive thru our neighboring states and see all the wildlife flourishing , wish we could get back to that. in short we need to adopt similar hunting seasons as our neighboring states to be able to harvest the larger mature deer period. there is no reason to have almost 30 days of fire arms , guys that harvest the smaller bucks just shhot them to say they have killed a buck because they have hunted so long during firearms. our Indiana deer numbers are down tremendously and we need to cut out a lot of the doe permits in all counties . hunters buy lots of license and soon they will stop because of the lack of deer and it is coming. so please stop giving out so many doe permits.

Comment Received 12/4/2014 7:30:14 AM

Commenter Name NOEL MORTIER

City INDIANAPOLIS **County** MARION **State** INDIANA

Organization (optional) ISRPA , NRA

E-Mail Address NOEL@NOELENTERPRISES.US

Comments I SUPPORT AND BELIEVE THAT 312 IAC 3-3-3 SECTION D4 IS A GOOD CHANGE. I HOPE THAT IT IS APPROVED

Comment Received 12/4/2014 7:32:40 AM

Commenter Name William Dibble

City Greencastle **County** PUTNAM **State** IN

E-Mail Address willdibble@hotmail.com

Comments I would prefer these changes do not take effect. I am particularly concerned with the kill range these rifles have. I cannot imagine entering a Brown County draw hunt with 700 other hunters with weapons that would allow for taking shots at 500 yards+. The rewards for this rule do not outweigh the inherent risks. The current rifle list for hunting is sufficient. I support the right to own and fire any weapon but I believe this should be done in a controlled environment rather than in areas where people are mostly camouflaged. I do not believe a hunter could distinguish between a deer decoy and a deer at 500 yards but a person may attempt this sho with these weapons. I also do not believe a person can accurately determine what is beyond a target at the ranges possible with these weapons. Few people can accurately compensate for windage and elevation which increases the risk of non-fatal wounds to animals and increases risk to persons and property in the vicinity. I do not believe the chagnes to the rifle section should be made.

Comment Received 12/4/2014 7:35:31 AM

Commenter Name Rich Rife

City Greenwood **County** JOHNSON **State** IN

Organization (optional) --

E-Mail Address hooyah78@gmail.com

Comments Please take into account the available hunting acreage in conjunction with the number of hunters and compare the ratios to those in Michigan, Kentucky and Pennsylvania. By looking at the general data, the ratio is indiana is much smaller and could alter how the NRC is looking at possible accidental shooting deaths from a high powered rifle.

Comment Received 12/4/2014 7:42:32 AM

Commenter Name Evan Stanifer

City Greenwood **County** JOHNSON **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address estanifer@nhj.k12.in.us

Comments Deer Hunting with rifle- I am in support of this as long as there are reasonable restrictions. Magazine limits 10 or less would be good, Caliber size limits.

Grouse Season- Close it only if there is going to be an official state response to rebuild the population. (work on quail also). I have not seen a Grouse since 2001 and clearly their population is in trouble but closing the season and doing nothing about it ridiculous. They will not magically come back. There needs to be a long term state plan that is made public for a healthy *Huntable* grouse population. Put more emphasis on small game in general and not only on Deer and Turkey.

Comment Received 12/4/2014 7:49:57 AM

Commenter Name james guy

City warsaw **County** KOSCIUSKO **State** in

E-Mail Address james.guy46580@gmail.com

Comments Lets get this passed and implemented. Great rule.

Comment Received 12/4/2014 7:50:22 AM

Commenter Name chris cobb

City depauw **County** HARRISON **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address ccobb.cc1@gmail.com

Comments I agree with the new proposals. I think that allowing rifles to hunt deer will not cause anymore hunting accidents and will benefit the state and hunters with more hunting opportunities for women and children.

Comment Received 12/4/2014 7:50:44 AM

Commenter Name Jeff Walters Sr.

City Logansport **County** CASS **State** IN

E-Mail Address jeffwalt77@gmail.com

Comments I think the consideration of high powered rifles for the hunting of deer is absurd. The topography of the central and north central portion of the state will allow for bullets to travel unimpeded for great distances. This will open the door for far too many shooting related accidents, both for hunters and non hunters alike.

Comment Received 12/4/2014 7:50:50 AM

Commenter Name ron kettler

City richmond County WAYNE State IN

E-Mail Address rekettler74@gmail.com

Comments There is no safe reason to allow center fire rifles to be used during the deer firearms season. Indiana is too populated, the ammunition will carry too far. It will encouraged hunters to attempt longer shots that can carry over ridges into areas not fully known to the hunter. There will be more wounded animals due to the longer shots taken. The slug law and muzzle loader law is sufficient to harvest deer in the firearms season.

Comment Received 12/4/2014 7:54:59 AM

Commenter Name Carl Gasner

City Columbus County BARTHOLOMEW State IN

E-Mail Address carlindagasner@gmail.com

Comments I agree with the proposed amendments. I find the rational for the proposed use of high powered rifles to be sound.

Comment Received 12/4/2014 7:56:46 AM

Commenter Name Craig Mull

City Henryville County CLARK State Indiana

E-Mail Address craig.mull@samtec.com

Comments I have seen no evidence of the need to change the case length and bullet diameter to improve the management of the deer herd in the state of Indiana. I would prefer to see the state adopt an earn a buck tag to better manage the herd by forcing the harvest of more doe in order to earn the opportunity to harvest a buck. In my opinion allowing the use of centerfire rifles will only encourage inexperienced hunters to take shots beyond their personal ability. This may cause an increase in unsafe situations for other hunters.

Comment Received 12/4/2014 8:01:08 AM

Commenter Name bryan buechley

City angola County STEUBEN State in

E-Mail Address bryanbuechley@yahoo.com

Comments I vote NO on the legal use of rifles in Indiana.

You already are to liberal on the Doe permits. We need to cut back on the amount of does that can be harvested in this area.

Comment Received 12/4/2014 8:03:01 AM

Commenter Name Jack Alexander

City Marion County GRANT State Indiana

E-Mail Address jack.alexander@indwes.edu

Comments We do not need to include high-powered rifles as legal firearms for deer hunting. I think it is a matter of public and hunter safety. We currently have plenty of firearm options for deer hunting. I cannot think of many areas in Northern and Central Indiana where public and hunter safety would not be impacted with the use of high-powered rifles.

Comment Received 12/4/2014 8:05:34 AM

Commenter Name Shannon Mattix

City Monticello County WHITE State Indiana

E-Mail Address shannon@mattixfinancial.comcastbiz.net

Comments DO NOT allow high powered rifles during deer seasons! Please bring back a lifetime license opportunity!

Comment Received 12/4/2014 8:05:50 AM

Commenter Name shawn sink

City Anderson County MADISON State Indiana

E-Mail Address shawnsink@yahoo.com

Comments I ve hunted in rifle states and dont think Indiana needs it here it's to flat. I worry about many things being shot houses people kids cars it's just to flat. It's not the everyday hunter it's the once a yr hunter that buys a rifle and doesn't know the distance and there's a lot of them. You want youth to be more involved but yet add rifles which makes it very unsafe no to rifles leave it as it is

Comment Received 12/4/2014 8:07:13 AM

Commenter Name mark johnson

City brazil County CLAY State in

E-Mail Address southof40@yahoo.com

Comments I think that the rule should be changed on hunting deer with rifles. the reason being that a person can hunt coyotes and squirrel with any caliber while im restricted on what I can use for the taking of the biggest animal that the state

has

Comment Received 12/4/2014 8:08:13 AM

Commenter Name Donnarae Woolston

City Poseyville **County** POSEY **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address draewoolston69@gmail.com

Comments Against proposed rifle rule. Our state is too flat and too densely populated. There are already a number of "hunters" who lack the marksmanship skills to shoot to the effective range of the current legal weapons. I believe this proposed rule will increase poaching, cause more animals to be wounded, and worst of all get someone killed.

Comment Received 12/4/2014 8:14:46 AM

Commenter Name Joe Limp

City Orleans **County** ORANGE **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address jdlimp@comcast.net

Comments Adding rifles to our deer season is a good thing, all for it. I oppose eliminating the use of dogs for taking wild pigs. Dogs are probably the most successful method of helping to control the damaging effects of our wild pig population.

Comment Received 12/4/2014 8:14:59 AM

Commenter Name Randall Jones

City Jeffersonville **County** CLARK **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address ran.stang94@gmail.com

Comments I am completely for the adoption of this rule. I believe that statistics from Pennsylvania and Kentucky have proven that Rifles are not more dangerous in the woods. the physics of momentum indicate that a 12 gauge slug can maintain it's speed far more readily than a .308, thus making the difference minimal. In the end it is more the hunter education courses and the requirement to make hunters more safety aware that will matter more in the woods. there is economic benefits to the state as well more people may wish to hunt due to this rule change, both in state and from out of state.

Comment Received 12/4/2014 8:19:54 AM

Commenter Name dan woolston

City poseyville **County** POSEY **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address danwoolston67@gmail.com

Comments Against rifle rule. I can only imagine a 'hunter' with a civilian model military type weapon spraying lead at a group of feeding deer. Rifled slug barrels are effective to 200 yds and inline muzzleloaders to 300 yds. Far outside the capabilities of most hunters. Keep the woods safe for the hunters and non hunters. You could be saving YOUR life.

Comment Received 12/4/2014 8:22:06 AM

Commenter Name Kyle Fallis

City Osgood **County** RIPLEY **State** IN

E-Mail Address fallis07@hotmail.com

Comments My comments are focused on the rule change to allow high powered rifle hunting into Indiana deer season. After much thought and consideration on this matter as it has been a discussion topic for a long time around here, I find that allowing people to hunt with these weapons is a high safety concern for no benefit over current allowed weapons. We are lucky enough here in Indiana to have a primarily rolling landscape to our great state. This though presents many issues for hunters that most do not consider. It is very possible to be hunting over a valley and have a hunter on the next ridge over that you do not know about. This could be from lack of communication between neighbors or even someone has snuck into someone else's land (a rampant issue). With this being said, a 12 gauge shot gun firing a slug will have an effective range of ~150 yards in most circumstances when firing at an animal. Though that is still a long distance to be able to know what is behind the animal in a wooded environment, it does provide some security of an under educated hunter from injuring or killing another hunter by forgetting the projectile will pass through the animal. The minimum cartridge of .243 is capable of 400 yards, this is to me impossible to know what lies behind the animal a person is taking. It increases the risk of all hunters and also non hunters in homes because of the ability to travel such distance.

The .243 cartridge being the smallest allowed is a little example. After reading through the allowed cartridges, I saw no maximum size clearly defined. This means many people will hunt with calibers upwards of 30-06. For those who do not know, 30-06 used to be a standard military sniper round capable of 1000 yards and more. Do you really feel that your family is safe knowing that a random person could easily sneak into your woods, and shoot at an animal and hit your house instead from around half a mile away? Please understand that I am not asking for a maximum cartridge to be added to the rules to prevent this because even a .243 is capable of penetrating a home's walls.

The current equipment (12 gauge) also offers a more humane kill. I am not an animal rights activist or anything, and I have shot plenty of deer in my relatively young life with a range of guns and bows. I am pointing out though that a shot gun offers more knock down power at its max effective range (~150 yards) than a high powered rifle will ever offer at any range. This is due to the simple laws of physics. A large object at high speeds will always offer more force than that of a small object at similar speeds. This translates to less deer being wounded and lost. If a high powered rifle was used, it will still be working in the same range of hunting as a shot gun (typically 200 yards or less). This area will lead to more shots being taken on deer that have a bullet pass through the animal without any real expansion being done and the animal being less injured and suffering longer before passing on. As hunters we do have an ethical obligation to attempt to take animals as efficiently as possible.

In conclusion I do not believe that high powered rifles should be used for multiple reasons that most do not consider. These include and are not limited to lack of hunter experience/ability, safety of all people hunting/not hunting, and humane hunting in general. I would enjoy talking with anyone that disagrees with anything I have said here and look forward to any communication from this comment.

Comment Received 12/4/2014 8:23:30 AM

Commenter Name Bryan McDonald

City Connersville **County** FAYETTE **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address mac6gun@gmail.com

Comments Totally against high powered rifle for deer season. Most deer killed in the state are within a 100 yards or less. Allowing high powered rifles will only encourage longer shots by hunters entering or exiting the wood and poachers shooting from the road sides. In central Indiana where I hunt there are houses within 400 yards in any direction which is normal across the entire state. I believe the acceptance of the rifle proposal would be an endangerment to the deer population and the safety of the human population. I currently harvest at least 3 deer a year under the current policies. If you are not good enough to actually hunt for the deer and take one at 100 yards or less with the existing equipment available then you don't need to be out there taking pot shots at something 400 yards away!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Comment Received 12/4/2014 8:24:47 AM

Commenter Name Scott Benter

City Bryant **County** JAY **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address scott.benter@edwardjones.com

Comments High powered rifles will get someone killed with today guns and ammo we can still shoot 200 yds there is no need for longer range shots unless you want to entice people to shoot illegally from the road and take pot shots, I am teaching my children to hunt and do not want other children shooting high powered rifles!!! I have hunted for over 25 yrs and have killed many deer with the legal equipment we have this is only asking for trouble and possibility of getting someone hurt. Most people do not realize how far a bullet travels if they miss a target and potential danger of shooting across a wide open field.

LETS STICK TO THE RULES WE HAVE IN PLACE!!!!!!

If you want more deer dead extend the season another week!!

Thanks Scott

Comment Received 12/4/2014 8:28:13 AM

Commenter Name Chuck Drerup

City Kendallville **County** NOBLE **State** in

E-Mail Address chuck@reliablepmw.com

Comments I approve of the changes to the definition of a rifle.

Comment Received 12/4/2014 8:28:25 AM

Commenter Name Edward Priest

City Battle Ground **County** CARROLL **State** IN

E-Mail Address epriest@purdue.edu

Comments I like all the proposed rule changes. Looks like people have been judicious in the rules process and are making common sense changes.

Comment Received 12/4/2014 8:31:08 AM

Commenter Name Stephen Jeffers

City Markle **County** HUNTINGTON **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address sjeffers_61@yahoo.com

Comments I do not agree with changing the rifle law for deer season (312 IAC 9-3-3 Equipment for deer hunting). The reason I do not agree is for the safety of other hunters and the general public. Some of the rifles to be used in the new wording could be shot over a 1000 yards and carry past road ways in the open flat areas of the northern counties. And into the houses across a mile long open field. There will be hunters who will try to take these long range shots with 30-06, 308, 7 mm or even a 50 cal. long range rifle and these weapons can carry a very long ways over an open flat field which we have many of these fields in our northern counties. I am an avid deer hunter and I am all for using the old rifle specifications but the new specifications could be very dangerous for the people just driving down the roadways and other hunters sitting the areas of where these long range rifles are being used. Thank you for letting me comment this matter Stephen Jeffers.

Comment Received 12/4/2014 8:34:09 AM

Commenter Name Ron McClain

City Indianapolis **County** MARION **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address ron.mcclain@yahoo.com

Comments I own several high-powered rifles and would love to be able to hunt deer with them....HOWEVER....on opening day I am surrounded by idiots who sling lead at anything that moves. I don't want THEM to have high-powered rifles. Therefore, I oppose the rule. The weapons used now are sufficient. If a hunter can't take a deer with the weapons currently authorized, he doesn't belong in the woods.

Comment Received 12/4/2014 8:34:37 AM

Commenter Name Tim Stockton
City Unionville **County** MONROE **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address tstockto@indiana.edu
Comments I support the proposed change to hunting rifle caliber for deer hunting. I sometimes hunt in Kentucky and Michigan and the use of high powered rifles and it seems to work just fine. I believe with all my heart the fine folks of Indiana can make the adjustment as well. Have a wonderful day.
Comment Received 12/4/2014 8:36:06 AM

Commenter Name Dustin Hayse
City Springville **County** LAWRENCE **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address dhayse32@gmail.com
Comments Basic Points:

- Shorten firearm season to 10-12 DAYS
- Agree with new rifle regulations
- Low deer numbers

As a QDMA member who manages several tracks of ground in Greene and Lawrence counties, the deer quality/population in my areas are way down. While a few people are still seeing decent deer numbers, the majority of people that I have spoke with have noticed a major decrease in deer quantity in their respected areas. Blame it on disease, increased tags, or hunting pressure...but it is my belief that the majority of responsibility lies within the ridiculous 44 days of firearm season (combining antlerless and youth). We have about as many firearm days as Ohio, Kentucky and Illinois combined! Ohio has roughly 12-13 days, Kentucky is around 20, and Illinois has around 17-18. That alone should tell you something. It isn't the weapons. I don't particularly want to see more high powered rifles, but I wouldn't be opposed if the firearm seasons were shorter, much shorter. To continue with our current seasons PLUS add in rifles, OUR deer quality is be destroyed. The one buck rule brought us out of hard times years ago, but we are heading back that direction. Three years ago I thought Indiana was a hidden gem compared to other Midwestern states, no so much any more.

Thank you for the time. Hopefully we can get our quality back to where it should be!

Comment Received 12/4/2014 8:36:06 AM

Commenter Name Ryan Roop
City Mitchell **County** LAWRENCE **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address rroop14@hotmail.com
Comments I think the law should be changed to allow high powered rifles .243 or larger for deer hunting in the state of Indiana.
Comment Received 12/4/2014 8:36:34 AM

Commenter Name Mark J Pfeil
City Jeffersonville **County** CLARK **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address Blue_water@twc.com
Comments In regards to high powered rifles used in deer hunting. I believe this should be limited to 30-30 max.

Everyone would be happy with this and the caliber drops fat after 300 yards.
 This caliber would satisfy many while maintaining safety in the Indiana flat lands

Comment Received 12/4/2014 8:38:21 AM

Commenter Name Anthony Pierce
City Henryville **County** CLARK **State** IN
E-Mail Address tpierce@savastep.com
Comments I am a Deer Hunter and A Land owner in Clark County.
 I think southern Indiana is to populated to hunt deer with a High Powered Rifle. I could see it in Northern Indiana were it is mainly farm land. In Clark County there is no reason to hunt deer with a Rifle, with the terrain a Slug works just fine.
Comment Received 12/4/2014 8:39:39 AM

Commenter Name Greg Stephens
City Westport **County** DECATUR **State** Indinana
E-Mail Address oops02@hotmail.com
Comments I agree with the changes except for the use of .243 and larger rifles. Shotgun and Muzzle loaders are sufficient. If the use of rifles is allowed there should be max to the capacity the weapon holds (5).
Comment Received 12/4/2014 8:42:56 AM

Commenter Name Jeff Scarbrough
City Terre Haute **County** VIGO **State** INDIANA
Organization (optional) 1962

<p>E-Mail Address digger19620@yahoo.com</p> <p>Comments I am glad to see the rule that will allow the .243 and bigger rifle cartridge we see the slug gun hunters shoot multiple times because of the fall off in velocity after 100 yards and the proposal will let Economical Rifles to be used to harvest deer, and I totally agree with the rest of the proposed changes</p> <p>Comment Received 12/4/2014 8:43:18 AM</p>
<p>Commenter Name ed everett</p> <p>City decatur County ADAMS State in</p> <p>E-Mail Address eeverett11@yahoo.com</p> <p>Comments I do not feel that the risk of using high powered rifles is worth the reward in Indiana. I know I and most of the hunters in my part of the state, hunt close enough to roads and homes in several directions as well as other hunters, that it would be asking for problems to put high powered rifles in every deer hunters hands. Shotguns and handgun cartridges have plenty of range for Indiana.</p> <p>Comment Received 12/4/2014 8:46:34 AM</p>
<p>Commenter Name David L Mundy</p> <p>City Birdseye County CRAWFORD State Indiana</p> <p>E-Mail Address dmundy@frontier.com</p> <p>Comments I am AGAINST centerfire rifles being used in Indiana for deer hunting. The other firearms available are more than adequate and are slightly safer because of their range capabilities.</p> <p>Comment Received 12/4/2014 8:46:53 AM</p>
<p>Commenter Name j.johnson</p> <p>City columbus County BARTHOLOMEW State indiana</p> <p>E-Mail Address jjohnson5184@comcast.net</p> <p>Comments comment against further liberalizing of deer hunting equipment to allow higher powered rifles than are already allowed, except in counties with topography compatible with safely using high powered rifles therein as judged by DNR study. A good model would be rules used by the PA Game Commission.</p> <p>Comment Received 12/4/2014 8:46:58 AM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Kent Wamsley</p> <p>City Winamac County PULASKI State Indiana</p> <p>E-Mail Address kentwamsley@yahoo.com</p> <p>Comments I am in favor of a bluegill daily bag limit. I AM TOTALLY AGAINST the proposed rule allowing rifles for deer hunting and consider it the most unethical and unsafe thing our DNR has ever considered.</p> <p>Comment Received 12/4/2014 8:47:47 AM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Kyle D Hardebeck</p> <p>City Batesville County RIPLEY State Indiana</p> <p>E-Mail Address khardebeck21@gmail.com</p> <p>Comments I would like to support this rule and the changes in it. It will allow for more humane hunting and better rule clarification.</p> <p>Thanks</p> <p>Comment Received 12/4/2014 8:49:49 AM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Wesley W. Wilson</p> <p>City Greencastle County PUTNAM State IN Indiana</p> <p>E-Mail Address wilson624@cinergymetro.net</p> <p>Comments I am in favor of this change. The use of regular center fire rifle cartridges for the hunting of deer in Indiana will allow the hunter greater accuracy than the use of shotgun slugs or handgun cartridges, as currently allowed. Handgun cartridges provide no greater accuracy than shotgun slugs. Rifle cartridges of .243 inches or greater will permit the hunter to significantly improve his accuracy and thereby improve chances for a clean kill and successful taking of the deer. Many fewer wounded and unrecovered deer will be the end result of this rule change making it a positive move in deer hunting in the state.</p> <p>Comment Received 12/4/2014 8:51:36 AM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Nathan Blume</p> <p>City Churubusco County ALLEN State IN</p> <p>E-Mail Address njblume@gmail.com</p> <p>Comments I fully support the proposed changes to 312 IAC 9-3-3 (d)(4) regarding rifle cartridge requirements. The restrictions currently in place are arbitrary. All calibers are legal for recreational shooting. All calibers require hunters to be smart, careful, and aware of their surroundings.</p> <p>Comment Received 12/4/2014 8:53:48 AM</p>
<p>Commenter Name J. Ferraro</p> <p>City Sellersburg County CLARK State IN</p>

E-Mail Address jferraro-dnrIN@adelphos.org

Comments I am commenting in support of the decision to allow high-powered rifles for deer hunting in the State of Indiana. While I think stipulations may need to be reviewed for hunters on public land or, perhaps, in more flat areas of the state, the use of rifles on private farm land will reduce the potential for bad shots that are "just beyond" the ability of black-powder rifles and shotguns.

In addition, while I don't favor mandate, I hope the state considers giving incentives to individuals who participate in online or in-person safety courses for hunting - perhaps in the form of reduced license fees or better chances at drawings. With greater privilege should come greater responsibility from citizens.

J. Ferraro

Comment Received 12/4/2014 8:58:14 AM

Commenter Name Gary Long

City BUSHNELL County OWEN State FL - Florida

E-Mail Address Superdutee@aol.com

Comments Being born and raised in Indiana, I've seen the many changes over the years. I now have a home in Indiana and Florida, but spend as much time in Indiana with my family. The new rifle proposal is a bad change. Much of the information you've stated is not accurate. Even though there are no limits on rifles for other seasons, you don't have the number of hunters in the woods as you will with deer season. It is scary in the woods during the opening weekend of "shotgun" season. My only "feel safe" is the fact I know my neighbors are shooting shotguns and the travel of the slug is limited. Muzzleloaders don't shoot 500 yards and if you can find someone to shoot that distant chances are there's only a couple people that can do it. There actually are very few people that even muzzleloader hunt. You put the option of a .270 in someone's hands and the woods will be full of people shooting and someone could get hurt. Just because they are legal in a couple of states really should not be justification to allow them in Indiana. The DNR should be focusing on law enforcement of the current laws. I'm not sure where you get your information but "it is lawless in Indiana". It really amazes me every year how many poachers there are in Indiana. I was bow hunting around the first week in Nov. and a truck stopped in front of my property, got out shot a deer threw it in the truck and drove off at 8:30a. I've sat in diners and hear people bragging on shooting 3 or 4 bucks and 15 does. The one buck rule was the best change Indiana has made. I'm not sure where or how the DNR's metrics are collected, but the deer herd in Indiana is shrinking. Obviously I'm a passionate hunter and purchased my 340 ac to come home and hunt with my family and friends. It's sad to see the things I see each year. Individuals driving the back roads and shooting deer from vehicles. It happens so much it's unbelievable. I own a restaurant in Florida and when I returned from hunting 3 guys came in and where eating dinner. They told me they had just returned from Indiana deer hunting. They didn't buy licenses, they shot 9 bucks and 13 does. If I could have gotten their names I would have turned them in. The changes in the rifle laws will just open the door and make all of this much worse. The DNR needs to put their efforts into enforcing current laws. By enacting the rifle laws, it will change the hunting landscape in Indiana forever and I don't believe it will be a positive one. Thank you

Comment Received 12/4/2014 8:58:19 AM

Commenter Name Paul Sturdevant

City North Vernon County JENNINGS State Indiana

E-Mail Address paulsturdevant@frontier.com

Comments The proposal identified in Section 5 d4 to allow a rifle firing a bullet .243 and larger should be allowed. This in my opinion is a GREAT change and should be adopted as soon as possible.

Thank you for this proposal,

Paul

Comment Received 12/4/2014 8:59:32 AM

Commenter Name robert shoultz

City petersburg County PIKE State in

E-Mail Address shoultzrobert@yahoo.com

Comments don't need rifles in the woods they shoot to long of distance for the flat ground around here someone is likely to get hurt

Comment Received 12/4/2014 9:02:13 AM

Commenter Name James Burlage

City Columbia City County WHITLEY State Indiana

E-Mail Address burlageassociates@frontier.com

Comments I am very much opposed to the proposed rule change allowing the use of center fire rifles for deer hunting. I am a landowner in Whitley County and hunt on my own land which consists of approximately 40 acres. The population density in my area is to great for even an experienced hunter to know what is in the background behind the deer that is being shot at. I own several center fire rifles and have used them to hunt out West, but do not think this is a good idea in Indiana, both as nervous homeowner in a rural area and from the point of view that it may not be safe to hunt in my area anymore. I also have a Land Surveying business in Steuben County, and am worried that I'll have a long period of time in November/December where it may not be safe to send my survey crew in the field for fear of being shot accidentally.

Comment Received 12/4/2014 9:03:51 AM

Commenter Name Ty Cottrell

City Hillsdale County VERMILLION State Indiana

E-Mail Address tyjeep@hotmail.com

Comments I am opposed to allowing the use of high powered rifles in the state of Indiana. I think it poses a risk to hunters and deer.

Having multiple shots with a long range gun means stray bullets will be flying all over the place.

People will be trying shots beyond their skill level just because the gun is capable.

We'll also have more injured deer from people not being accurate at those distances and just wounding them.

Allowing high powered rifles takes a lot of the sporting aspect out of deer hunting. If you can't get close enough to a deer to harvest it with the current guns allowed, then maybe you need to get better at hunting.

Give the deer a fighting chance.

Also, with all of these river bottoms being opened to public hunting with the Healthy Rivers Initiative, there will be a lot of people hunting that low, flat ground where bullets will travel a long ways with nothing to stop it.
That sounds like a recipe for disaster.

Please take in to consideration the safety of aspect of allowing high powered rifles.

Comment Received 12/4/2014 9:04:59 AM

Commenter Name Gail Przybylski

City Bloomfield County GREENE State Indiana

E-Mail Address skeeter2440@gmail.com

Comments I think that a person should be able to hunt deer with high powered rifles as long as they are not inside of the City limits. As long as hunters remain wearing Orange another fellow hunter should be able to see where they are before shooting. Less deer would be wounded and left out there to spoil. Right now the Black powder and shotguns have gotten so good you can shoot 100 to 175 yards and in the woods that's hard to do so if a guy had a high power rifle he would have a better chance.

Comment Received 12/4/2014 9:05:05 AM

Commenter Name david pickering

City richmond County WAYNE State indiana

E-Mail Address carefuldlp@aol.com

Comments i have hunted in Indiana for the better part of 20 years and I thank the use of high power rifles would be a BIG mistake the way people shot now when they see a deer is stupid and dangerous. if yall remember back a few years ago before hunter ed started look at all the hunters that shot this is why the ideal of high power rifles should never be done here just me talking but yall ant thanking this though thanks again be safe

Comment Received 12/4/2014 9:06:54 AM

Commenter Name Scott Denninger

City McCordsville County HANCOCK State IN

E-Mail Address scott.denninger@gmail.com

Comments I think the addition of these calibers would put our state on par with other states around us and is still just has humane for the deer.

Comment Received 12/4/2014 9:07:56 AM

Commenter Name Scott Hardy

City Shirley County HANCOCK State Indiana

E-Mail Address scott@htyes.com

Comments I am opposed to the use of high powered rifles for deer hunting in the state of Indiana.

I feel that with the equipment already allowed and improvements to the existing legal equipment, hunters have an excellent chance of harvesting a deer.

My main concern is safety and that with the range of high powered rifles, too many hunters will take ill-advised "Long" shots and more and more game will be injured. I also am afraid that long shots will be taken across fields and open spaces and the hunter may get tunnel vision and not be aware of what is beyond their target such as another hunter, child, domestic animal or property.

With the shorter range firearms which are currently legal, the unnecessary shots over 150 - 200 yards are not as likely.

Another concern is the hunters efficiency with their firearm. This goes for all legal equipment. I have been a hunter all of my life and am nearing my sixth decade. There are countless times that I have seen and know of that the only time a so called hunter gets their gun out is opening day or opening weekend of deer firearms season. These are the "hunters" I am worried don't have any business with a high powered rifle.

Please seriously consider my comments.

Best regards,

Scott Hardy
Comment Received 12/4/2014 9:14:53 AM

Commenter Name john scott

City butler **County** DEKALB **State** indiana

E-Mail Address fuzz289@live.com

Comments in reference to the use of high power rifles I say no. If they are to be used that will let the use of 30 30 , 3006 and the sks ,ak47 and most asult rifles made now ..The range on most of these are from 1.5 to 3 miles and the roads around here are only 1 mile apart with a lot of famblys with kids on the side roads that will be in danger of being hit by stray bullets fired at missed deer..What we have now for hunting deer is now usable and suffence..People will use the high power rifles with 30 round banna clips and really open up not really knowing where the bullet is going...

Comment Received 12/4/2014 9:14:59 AM

Commenter Name Anthony Hunter

City Greenwood **County** JOHNSON **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address hunter.curt@gmail.com

Comments I have zero issue with the high powered rifle rule change. There is very little difference between what a muzzle.loader is and what a rifle is.

A firearm is a firearm. Ban all or allow other calibers that also allow a humane kill. I am from FL originally. It is no flatter here than there.

Comment Received 12/4/2014 9:15:29 AM

Commenter Name Eric Ellis

City Guilford **County** DEARBORN **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address Rangerric101@aol.com

Comments I believe the use of high powered rifles in this state is not necessary and in some areas of the state would be unsafe. Most weapon systems use to hunt deer are accurate out to 100 yards. Most parts of this state a 100 yards shot is about the normal. The use of rifles in handgun calibers has been a big boost in long range accuracy. Do not fix what is not broken. Thank you.

Comment Received 12/4/2014 9:16:04 AM

Commenter Name Jacob Teuschler

City Greenfield **County** HANCOCK **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address JacobTeuschler@GMail.com

Comments I strongly support the following proposed changes:

312 IAC 9-3-3 - Rifle Usage

312 IAC 9-3-12 - Coyote Hunting

However, the allowed rifle cartridges probably should not include the .338 Lapua and the .50 BMG.

All the other proposed changes seem logical however, I don't relate to them as much as the two previously mentioned.

Comment Received 12/4/2014 9:16:57 AM

Commenter Name John Barry

City Corydon **County** HARRISON **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address jpkibarry2@hotmail.com

Comments I would like to say that 'It's about time.', concerning the use of rifles for deer hunting. I prefer to use a rifle when hunting deer, and as such, have not been hunting in Indiana. It will be nice to have the option to stay in Indiana to hunt deer (if the government does the right thing, and approve the rule).

Comment Received 12/4/2014 9:20:54 AM

Commenter Name Charles Hallam

City Evansville **County** VANDERBURGH **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address Challam68@gmail.com

Comments Yes. I believe hi powered rifles of all calibers should b legal

Comment Received 12/4/2014 9:22:58 AM

Commenter Name Troy Sams

City Howe **County** LAGRANGE **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address tsams@lagrangeremc.com

Comments This comment is regarding proposed rule 3121AC 9-3-3. This change is obscured for our areas here in Indiana. The limits being lifted in regards to high power rifles being used. I personally have ownership in a outfitting business in Montana for wild game species and I have clients arriving in camp constantly capable and accurately harvesting animals to 1,000 yards and beyond. Some of these clients are from back east here. We here in Indiana can not risk other human life consisting of anyone on the backside of these long range weapons by allowing there use. Its ridiculous to even consider and ive been around them my whole life and even own some. I still don't want to use them in Indiana and again< I own these type of guns. Iam also a farmer besides a outfitter and Ive already had issues from the current longer range weapons being

allowed. These deer and such are being successfully harvested now and what are we to gain from this. I can tell u what we are making available to lose from these longrange weapons, HUMAN LIFE. It is way to populated here for this nonsense of high powered rifles.

Comment Received 12/4/2014 9:23:16 AM

Commenter Name KEN MARSHALL

City NORTH VERNON **County** JENNINGS **State** INDIANA

E-Mail Address kenny.marshall@in.usda.gov

Comments I strongly oppose the firearm proposed changes of cartridge length and diameter for the purpose of taking deer during the firearms season. I feel this rule change would bring about a very dangerous situation to deer hunters in the field, persons in vehicles traveling on all roads in the vicinity of hunting activities, and personal "real property" in rural areas. In many rural areas with flat topography a bullet of a high velocity is an eminent danger within 2 miles of the shooter. In many cases I have witnessed hunters surrounding a level crop field on all sides, this means hunters could be shooting across a 200 acre field with hunters on the opposite side of the field being within direct line of fire of high velocity projectiles. Also, even in a heavily wooded area, a high velocity round will ricochet several times (shoot a tracer round into a woodlot during the winter at night, you will quickly decide you do not want to be in that woodlot!!) I do not feel this is safe for all involved. I realize the insurance companies have a strong lobby but this is not a safe alternative for taking more deer!!

Comment Received 12/4/2014 9:25:02 AM

Commenter Name David Lancello

City Indianapolis **County** MARION **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address dlancello@comcast.net

Comments I support the deer hunting amendments proposed as related to higher powered firearms. these firearms allow for a more humane hunt and less lost/wounded game.

Comment Received 12/4/2014 9:28:17 AM

Commenter Name jerry mcdellan

City crawfordsville **County** MONTGOMERY **State** in.

Organization (optional) gun shop owner

E-Mail Address jerrymcdellan43@att.net

Comments 99 % of all our customers DO NOT agree with this change ,most deer shots in Indiana are made under 100 yds.you do not need a high power rifle to make a shot like this , PLEASE ,PLEASE < PLEASE do not change this law.

Comment Received 12/4/2014 9:28:41 AM

Commenter Name Adam Hopkins

City Lynnville **County** WARRICK **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address project0142@aol.com

Comments My fellow hunters are excited about the possibility of using out high-power rifles next year. After talking to several hunters in the area as well as some law enforcement. We feel that there won't be a decrease in safety in the lower part of the state anyway. I havnt frequented the upper part of the state enough to cast an opinion for that area, but here in the southern part of the state I don't see where safty would be an issue.

Thank you,

Respectfully,

Adam Hopkins.

Comment Received 12/4/2014 9:28:54 AM

Commenter Name Eric Small

City Crawfordsville **County** MONTGOMERY **State** IN

Organization (optional) Owner Tactical Weapons & Supply

E-Mail Address tacticalweapons2@yahoo.com

Comments My concern is with using 243 and up high power rifles in a congested area.

When you have many hunters coming from other areas that rent the hunting rights on others grounds.

Rifles of the 30-30, 45-70 class that has a shorter range may be a good start before opening 243 cal. and larger bores.

I think that if the 243 and larger cal. rifles are passed than there needs to be a restriction on ground blinds. They can only be used from an elevated tree or blind stand.

I think this would help with stray bullets traveling in unwanted areas.

Comment Received 12/4/2014 9:31:17 AM

Commenter Name jeff buroker

City evansville **County** VANDERBURGH **State** in

E-Mail Address jtdakmatt@yahoo.com

Comments we have enough firearm calibers. no need for adding high powered rifle calibers.

maybe limit to private property. not on dnr properties. way too many people that are trigger happy hunting these properties.

Comment Received 12/4/2014 9:34:04 AM

Commenter Name Greg Schepman

City Crothersville **County** JENNINGS **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address gschepman@icloud.com

Comments The only way in my opinion that you are going to control the deer population in Indiana is to make people shoot a doe two before you shoot a buck because deer hunters today lease so much ground that there are fewer hunters and the ones that lease ground sit in the stand all year to shoot one buck they don't care about the population they just want a set of antlers I can tell them to shoot 20 does but they will not! As far as hunting with a 243 Indiana is so populated for that I already have a hole in my house from (deer hunters) shooting at deer off the road and we will have many more because Jennings Co may as well not have game wardens because I haven't seen one

Comment Received 12/4/2014 9:36:20 AM

Commenter Name Carl Farrar

City Lafayette County TIPPECANOE State Indiana

E-Mail Address Deaddockposse03@gmail.com

Comments I don't think the use of rifles should be allowed for deer hunting. I think there will be people taking long shots at deer that are beyond the shooter's ability, but some of the rifles are capable of accurate shots up to a mile. How many of these people are going to pay attention to what's beyond their target?

Indiana also needs to raise the cost of out of state license fees!!!!

As an Indiana resident and deer hunter, and other game hunter we need to protect other hunters and residents and the wildlife!

Comment Received 12/4/2014 9:36:59 AM

Commenter Name Darren Simmons

City Columbia City County WHITLEY State Indiana

E-Mail Address dsimmon1968@gmail.com

Comments I believe that passing the use of high powered rifle to hunt deer is a great idea. But with stipulations on calibers. I believe there should be a lot of thought and ballistic study done on flight of bullets based on caliber.

Thanks

Darren Simmons

Comment Received 12/4/2014 9:41:06 AM

Commenter Name mathew Osborne

City clay city County CLAY State IN

E-Mail Address mfiremedic101@aol.com

Comments I believe this amendment will allow more ethical kills, better harvest and increase in deer numbers due to the more ethical harvests. It will also align our rules to other top hunting states. I believe these rules are a great addition and will have a better impact on our ecosystem. We are already allowed to use high powered rifles on coyotes, it only makes sense that since there hasn't been a huge problem with the use of rifles for that, there will not be an increase in problems with using them for deer. I fully support this amendment.

Comment Received 12/4/2014 9:41:29 AM

Commenter Name Tim Condra

City Woodburn County ALLEN State In

E-Mail Address tlcmbc@msn.com

Comments Allow rifles such as 30/30 for deer

Comment Received 12/4/2014 9:46:52 AM

Commenter Name Perry Welp

City Ferdinand County DUBOIS State Indiana

E-Mail Address pwelp@psci.net

Comments I DO NOT want changes allowing rifles .243 and larger for deer hunting. This IS NOT safe for Indiana terrain and too many hunters will be UNEDUCATED on ballistic trajectory. It will negatively impact the deer population. There will be multiple problems with road hunters especially with the limited supply of Conservation Officers.

Comment Received 12/4/2014 9:50:36 AM

Commenter Name Lawrence Metz

City Cincinnati County OHIO State Ohio

E-Mail Address lmetz1@zoomtown.com

Comments In addition to a nine inch minimum for crappie in Dogwood and Hardy lakes, I think you should add Brookville lake also

Comment Received 12/4/2014 9:51:56 AM

Commenter Name Stephen Thomas Reed

City Terre Haute County VIGO State Indiana

E-Mail Address steve@nrkinc.com

Comments I say no to allowing a Rifle to be used for deer hunting. A muzzle loader has 1 shot, if missed the deer is usually out of site. A Rifle with a reloading time of a second will allow a hunter multiple shots at a deer, reducing the need for accuracy. I have seen and heard too many hunters firing several rounds from a shot gun in quick succession. The rifle allows too much range for a miss directed projectile in populated areas. A good hunter safe hunter needs one shot. This is what I teach my family for hunting, they rarely miss.

Comment Received 12/4/2014 9:52:23 AM

<p>Commenter Name Stephen fancher City evansville County VANDERBURGH State in E-Mail Address bulldog812812@gmail.com Comments I think the earn a buck program should go in all county during all seasons for a couple years jus to grow better bucks so everyone ain't shooting the first buck they see cause in reality there are way more does that breed every year and hit by cars so with this everyone will focus on does before the bucks Comment Received 12/4/2014 9:53:33 AM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Chad Smith City Anderson County MADISON State IN - Indiana E-Mail Address chad@whiteriverins.com Comments Very much in support of a 25 limit for all sunfish species. Catch an non release of this species is abused by to many fisherman during the spawning period. Comment Received 12/4/2014 9:54:03 AM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Jeremy Walters City Jasonville County GREENE State Indiana Organization (optional) Concerned hunter E-Mail Address Jswalters76@att.net Comments I think the addition on high powered rifles is ridiculously stupid. Hunter density is to high. You are going to get kids hunting on the ground or in ground blinds killed. Furthermore the deer population after 3 years of disease, multiple doe tags per county, & crossbows is bottoming out. This has been the worst deer season I've seen since I started hunting as a child. I beg you to please reconsider this change not only for our safety but to preserve our wildlife not destroy it. Comment Received 12/4/2014 9:55:00 AM</p>
<p>Commenter Name James Houchin City St. roix County PERRY State Indiana E-Mail Address jhouchi@psci.net Comments I think that a 243 caliber also should be considered. If it's good enough for the military to take human life it should be good enough to take A DEER which is not any bigger than a man. Comment Received 12/4/2014 9:55:04 AM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Lorenzo Ballerini City Marlton County Out of State State New Jersey E-Mail Address gpscontracting@comcast.net Comments In response to proposed rule changes regarding the use of high power rifles may. Having had only limited exposure to hunting within the Jackson County and Washington County areas may I suggest that the introduction of high power rifle use may lead some sportsman to attempt very long range shot opportunities with little regard to the golden rule of "knowing your target and beyond" before pulling the trigger. The topography of the bottomlands so frequently holding high concentrations of deer and visible at great distances may prove to be a lethal combination when coupled with the use of high power rifles. Property lines will not provide a backstop for errant long distance shots and the exposure for property, livestock or other hunters could prove disastrous. I would recommend maintaining the current list of approved firearms as is and not permit the introduction of high power rifles. Comment Received 12/4/2014 9:55:21 AM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Keith Kimmel City Madison County JEFFERSON State Indiana E-Mail Address kkimmel@riversidecontractingllc.com Comments I believe regular rifles should be allowed during deer season especially in Southern Indiana where the terrain is like Northern Kentucky with lots of hills and valleys. We have muzzle loaders that will shoot close to 200-250 yards. Allowing rifles in southern Indiana will aid in curbing the overpopulation of deer and put Indiana on the same line with our neighboring state Kentucky. Comment Received 12/4/2014 9:56:11 AM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Timothy Jones City Beverly Shores County PORTER State Indiana E-Mail Address shootpse88@gmail.com Comments refer to allowing rifles during gun season,I am totally against allowing rifle hunting in Indiana,if rifle hunting is passed I will not purchase any firearms tags in Indiana im am not alone in this stance,also iam against allowing firearms to be used in Indiana's urban deer zones these should be left bow only!!!! its bad enough we have to share the woods with gun hunters from nov15th till january Comment Received 12/4/2014 10:03:07 AM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Scott Sheckler City Dillsboro County RIPLEY State In E-Mail Address sctscheck@aol.com Comments I think the use of high powered rifles for the hunting of deer is a bad idea because of the increased risk to other hunters and people in the outdoors in general.It also makes it easier to kill deer at a greater range and increases the risk of</p>

wounded deer which I find quite a few every year. The deer population is already down so far I am concerned about the low numbers on my property.

Comment Received 12/4/2014 10:03:32 AM

Commenter Name Brian Culy

City Linn Grove **County** ADAMS **State** Indiana

Organization (optional) Indiana Master Naturalist

E-Mail Address 44cases@gmail.com

Comments Pertaining to "(4) A rifle must fire a cartridge that meets the following specifications:

(A) Fire a bullet of three hundred fifty-seven thousandths (.357) two hundred fortythree thousandths (.243) of an inch diameter or larger.

(B) Have a minimum case length of one and sixteen-hundredths (1.16) inches.

(C) Have a maximum case length of one and eight-tenths (1.8) inches."

I do not agree with this amendment. Allowing higher powered projectiles does not make sense as I have been nearly shot twice while hunting. Both have been from inexperienced hunters that don't care where the lead flies. Both were confronted and made clear to them that they MUST be aware of the surroundings.

The higher powered amendment will only make it a hazard to hunt on our own property as projectiles will carry farther and the one who fires it cannot effectively scan the surroundings effectively to safely shoot. I have had barns hit from strays and my home has been hit.

I do not want this amendment.

Comment Received 12/4/2014 10:04:57 AM

Commenter Name Mike Hausz

City Lanesville **County** HARRISON **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address mvhausz@frontier.com

Comments I agree with the proposed deer rifle caliber choices. The past regulations allowed many calibers that were just as powerful as the common calibers that hunters already own. Only hunters with the ability to buy custom rifles could take advantage of them. This would make it fair for all hunters.

Comment Received 12/4/2014 10:08:34 AM

Commenter Name Russell Schuman

City Jeffersonville **County** CLARK **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address schumanruss@yahoo.com

Comments I am for all of these changes in this bundle. We need to eliminate the season on bird hunting to allow that species to gain in numbers. Most of the other rule changes will bring us up to date. I am especially for the use of high powered rifles for deer hunting. I moved here 10 years ago and was basically dumbfounded that high powered rifles were not allowed. All the reasons I was given made no sense, especially based on the rest of the country, including our neighboring states that allow the use of high powered rifles. Thanks for your time and consideration.

Comment Received 12/4/2014 10:08:53 AM

Commenter Name Gary Patterson

City Fishers **County** HAMILTON **State** IN

Organization (optional) Self

E-Mail Address garyfromtn@aol.com

Comments I support the use of high-power rifles for deer hunting throughout IN, not just the county in which I reside

Comment Received 12/4/2014 10:11:59 AM

Commenter Name Michael Bessesen

City Fort Wayne **County** ALLEN **State** INDIANA

E-Mail Address ccfb20@gmail.com

Comments I promote the new caliber, high powered rifles added to the list of acceptable firearms for whitetail deer

Comment Received 12/4/2014 10:12:53 AM

Commenter Name Richard Rennie

City Rochester **County** FULTON **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address hisservant1@embarqmail.com

Comments Regarding bag limit on all sunfish. Bluegill and green sunfish should be excluded due to reproductive abundance. Better to limit or stop fishing during spawn. Have watched over fishing of spawning size/bedding males for years. Protect them and you increase size and abundance of fishery. At the same time 25 may be a little high for redears and rockbass. I consider myself among the better pan fishermen and know some regulation might be necessary but am deeply convinced limiting spawn fishing would be much more beneficial.

Comment Received 12/4/2014 10:15:50 AM

Commenter Name James Murphy

City Greenwood **County** JOHNSON **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address pastorjamiemurphy@gmail.com

Comments My comments regard deer regulations, especially the inclusion of high-powered rifles (HPR). My concerns are

safety and deer numbers. I would suggestion considering the following, or a combination of the following:

1. Do not make HPR legal at all. Keep gun regulations as are.
2. Reduce the # of antlerless deer allowed to be killed in the state; get rid of the late antlerless season for all counties; this should be done no matter what is decided on HPRs, but ESPECIALLY if HPRs are made legal. HPRs are going to make it easier to kill deer, and unfortunately, wound more as well as people take longer shots than they should, thus leading to more deer killed even with less checked in.
3. Allow 2 bucks per year. This would allow hunters to shoot a scrub buck for meat (saving a doe), and save a tag for a mature deer, and would still allow plenty of quality bucks in the state.
4. If HPRs are made legal, make it mandatory to be 12ft+ in a stand to use them. No hunting from the ground.
5. Consider making HPRs illegal on public grounds and public hunts. Only allow them on private land.
6. No semi-auto HPR; only bolt, pump, lever, or single-shot; no more than 5 rounds allowed in a gun at a time.
7. Even if you can kill so many antlerless in a county, reduce the number that can be killed during gun season (to something like no more than 2).

I believe a blank acceptance of HPRs with no reduction in antlerless quotas and no safety restrictions is a mistake. And no matter what the HPR decision is, I think something needs to be done to reduce antlerless harvest.

Thank you.

Comment Received 12/4/2014 10:17:40 AM

Commenter Name Don Ihle

City Madison **County** JEFFERSON **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address donihle@aol.com

Comments Allow high powered rifles up to and including 30.06 caliber if shooting from an elevated position of at least 10 feet above the animal. The angle of the shot will provide adequate safety by forcing it to strike the ground within the vicinity of the animal.

Comment Received 12/4/2014 10:19:05 AM

Commenter Name Tyler Bellin

City LaPorte **County** LAPORTE **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address tybellin@yahoo.com

Comments I am all for allowing higher powered rifles to hunt deer during the firearm season. If we want to properly manage the deer population in this State and come even close to reaching the quotas for each county, higher powered rifles are a must. They also reduce the risk of injuring and/or losing deer. Please pass this amendment!

Comment Received 12/4/2014 10:19:29 AM

Commenter Name charles odell

City washington **County** DAVIESS **State** in

E-Mail Address charlesodell@att.net

Comments 312iac9-3-12 Since coyote hunting requires either shooting long distance and tracking dogs during the chase it is important a land owner knows of this activity in writing so arrangements can be made to protect people and livestock from harm.

Comment Received 12/4/2014 10:20:19 AM

Commenter Name kirk fulk

City Avilla **County** NOBLE **State** IN

Organization (optional) Concerned Hunter

E-Mail Address kirk.fulk@navistar.com

Comments I have two changes I wish to comment on.

I have a great concern for the safety of residents in Indiana if the state allows the use of the 243 and larger rifles. The state can not support such a change with any beneficial facts. Indiana is very flat, thus allowing larger caliber rifles to endanger residents in their homes, in vehicles, or just walking. there is absolutely no reason for a hunter to have to shoot over 150 yards at the prey they are attempting to bag. The flatness of terrain also endangers fellow hunters in the area as well. The states only support for this change is that other surrounding states use larger caliber rifles that is only partially true and the state knows that. I am asking please reconsider this motion and kill it before it kills innocent people.

My second rule change is the bag limit of 25 bluegills. If the state is serious about the growth of the population then eliminate bluegills being fished for during the spawn, and the state knows that is when the majority of mass numbers of bluegills are caught.

Comment Received 12/4/2014 10:21:23 AM

Commenter Name STEVE RETTIG

City FOWLER **County** BENTON **State** INDIANA

E-Mail Address 506rettig@sbcglobal.net

Comments Going from a low-power rifle to the proposed .243 and up high-powered rifle will create more injuries and possibly deaths from the extended range and travel of these cartridges. I would propose those cartridges be limited to counties with very rolling terrain or not at all in Indiana.

Comment Received 12/4/2014 10:25:32 AM

Commenter Name Matthew D Subler

City BERNE **County** ADAMS **State** IN - Indiana

E-Mail Address sublermd@yahoo.com

Comments I agree with the proposed rule change to allow a minimum rifle cartridge of .243 in the deer firearm season. I feel that this will encourage the sale of more deer licenses as a wider cross section of hunters will be interested in deer hunting with the availability of those calibers. As for any argument against this rule on the basis of safety, from my experience as a coyote hunter using high powered rifles both day and night, I have not had or heard of any experiences of misuse of high powered firearms on our flat Northern Indiana terrain.

Comment Received 12/4/2014 10:28:15 AM

Commenter Name Glen Mullet

City Goshen **County** ELKHART **State** Indiana

Organization (optional) Sweeper Remedy

E-Mail Address glenm@bnin.net

Comments Over the last 20 years I have seen the size and numbers of crappies in Lake Wawasee dwindle drastically. Please implement a daily bag limit of 15 rather than 25. Crappies are a large panfish, and no one needs to take 25 of them in one day. The crappie species are known to "turn on", and when they do, you can have many anglers limiting out in a short period of time. This is what has been happening over the last 20 years and it has decimated the average size and numbers of crappies in Lake Wawasee. Thank you for your consideration. An avid crappie fisherman, Glen Mullet

Comment Received 12/4/2014 10:28:35 AM

Commenter Name Zach Hittler

City Huntington **County** HUNTINGTON **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address brushpile90@gmail.com

Comments As a long time hunter I hope that part of this rule is rejected. I cannot see a need or desire for most hunters to use high powered rifles in Indiana. The deer population suffered a die off a couple of years ago and populations in my area finally seem to be back to normal. If the goal is deer reduction there are many other ways to accomplish this. Apart from deer numbers, the biggest issue I see is safety. I understand that there are smokeless muzzleloaders out there that are capable of producing rifle like accuracy at extended distances, but they are utilized by such a small number of hunters that the results are inconsequential. If other high powered rifles are allowed several new risks emerge. Safety for myself and others is at the top of the list as well as trespass considerations. I already walk to my stand with a small dose of fear during the firearms season. I almost always utilize some sort of light to alert neighbors to my presence, but the thought of someone accurately being able to shoot to 300 or 400 yards is somewhat scary in a state where most huntable tracts of land are 40-120 acres, putting other hunters well within shooting distance. Trespassing is an offense but unfortunately is something most hunters deal with on some level. Knowing that a neighbor could potentially shoot well into an adjoining property is a little unnerving. The addition of pistol calibers in rifles was not a bad move, but the addition of long range calibers poses great risk to hunters in our state. Please consider safety above all else in this debate. Very few hunters go home empty handed the way it is now. A focus of effort to utilize deer killed on roadways to feed the hungry would be a much better topic than turning Indiana into the wild wild west. We just don't have the open country to support this notion.

Thanks

Comment Received 12/4/2014 10:31:23 AM

Commenter Name Robert Barber

City Bedford **County** LAWRENCE **State** Indiana

Organization (optional) Lightvisions Photography

E-Mail Address robert_barber_389@comcast.net

Comments If DNR has determined that the Ruffed Grouse population is in serious decline then a suspension of hunting this species should be filed.

Comment Received 12/4/2014 10:32:18 AM

Commenter Name Bill E. Bergherm

City Terre Haute **County** VIGO **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address billbergherm@gmail.com

Comments I am mixed on the approval of the use of high powered rifles. While I have hunted for over 40+ years, and currently hunt on private property, and have several rifles that would qualify in the proposal, and would enjoy hunting with them. I am concerned with the novice hunter, who can readily purchase a high powered rifle, without any education i.e., hunter safety, gun safety and go onto public land, possibly putting others in harms way.

Comment Received 12/4/2014 10:33:39 AM

Commenter Name James shinkle

City Paoli **County** ORANGE **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address Jcshinkl@indiana.edu

Comments I am in favor of the change to high powered rifles .

Comment Received 12/4/2014 10:38:42 AM

Commenter Name gary sprouls

City warsaw **County** KOSCIUSKO **State** in

E-Mail Address glsprouls@gmail.com

Comments 312 IAC 9-3-3 section 8. I agree with the possible rule change on bullet diameter and case length. I will still use my 44 mag for short shots.

Comment Received 12/4/2014 10:40:09 AM

Commenter Name David Rupp

City Bloomington **County** MONROE **State** Indiana

Organization (optional) Sassafras Audubon Society

E-Mail Address david_rupp@hotmail.com

Comments I support amending the hunting rule for ruffed grouse; it is long overdue. I have not seen one in eight years, and I often hear from others how they used to hear or see grouse but no longer do. Any species that is nearing extirpation needs to be protected, not hunted.

Comment Received 12/4/2014 10:41:06 AM

Commenter Name Lynn Shaw

City Nashville **County** BROWN **State** INDIANA

E-Mail Address ljshaw3045@gmail.com

Comments I am in agreement that we should adopt a deer hunting rule that allows high powered rifles in Indiana. My only opposing comment is that rifles SHOULD be limited to counties in the south with hill terrian and limit the northern half that is flat to shotgun only. Similar to the regulations in KY. Shotguns should also be the only firearm permissible near larger cities. In this situation a study could be done as to proximity of city to ground that is huntable. Thanks, Lynn Shaw

Comment Received 12/4/2014 10:45:12 AM

Commenter Name John D Scott

City Carmel **County** HAMILTON **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address jscott64@aol.com

Comments I am in favor of allowing Rifle calibers of .243 and above for Indiana Firearms season. It never has made sense that you can hunt coyote with any caliber but not deer. Good luck

Comment Received 12/4/2014 10:45:19 AM

Commenter Name Terry Bowling

City Darlington **County** MONTGOMERY **State** Indiana

Organization (optional) Indiana Bowhunters Association

E-Mail Address bowlingterry63@yahoo.com

Comments Legalizing high powered rifles for deer hunting in Indiana would be putting hunters and any surrounding public people at a much higher risk of being struck by a straying bullet with the much longer range of high powered bullets. Please DO NOT PASS THIS!!!!!!

Comment Received 12/4/2014 10:50:51 AM

Commenter Name Stephen fancher

City evansville **County** VANDERBURGH **State** in

E-Mail Address bulldog812812@gmail.com

Comments No rifle season someone gonna get hurt

Comment Received 12/4/2014 10:52:25 AM

Commenter Name Robert Haluska

City Lowell **County** LAKE **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address bobylnn1968@gmail.com

Comments We don't have the real open spaces to make High Powered Rifles legal in *Indiana. They would be a DANGER TO PROPERTY AND PERSON

Comment Received 12/4/2014 10:53:39 AM

Commenter Name Roger Johnson Jr.

City Indianapolis **County** MARION **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address rjohnson12@comcast.net

Comments Hello,

My comment is for the rule change to allow the use of high power rifles for deer hunting during firearms season. I am completely for it! I know safety is a concern for some, but high powered rifles are used now for coyote hunting and there is a lot of hunters who do that, so I do not see why deer hunting should be any different. There's not really much more I would like to say about it, but I do hope that it gets approved and that is coming from a person who would rather bow hunt than anything. I do have a couple more things to say and I know this isn't really the place to suggest it, but I would really like to see the muzzleloader season and modern firearms season swapped so that muzzleloader would come in before the modern firearms season and add a two day muzzleloader season in mid to late October similar to what Kentucky has. That is all I have to say...thanks for your time and considering my comments and suggestions. Roger.

Comment Received 12/4/2014 10:54:21 AM

Commenter Name Jared Conrad

City milltown **County** CRAWFORD **State** indiana

E-Mail Address jconrad2316@gmail.com